



## Ring in the new: NYPD drone to oversee Times Square revelry

**NEW YORK (AP)** — It's an Auld Lang Syne of the times: For the first time, a police drone will be keeping watch over the New Year's Eve celebration in New York's Times Square. The unmanned eye-in-the-sky is the latest wrinkle in the New York City Police Department's ever-evolving plan to keep revelers — and "Rockin' Eve" host Ryan Seacrest — safe. About 7,000 police officers will be on duty for Monday night's festivities in Times Square, including counter-terrorism teams with long guns and bomb-sniffing dogs. Police cars and

sand-filled sanitation trucks will be positioned to stop vehicles from driving into the crowd. And, above it all, a remote-controlled quadcopter will be giving police a unique view of the merriment — and any potential mayhem. It's the first time the NYPD is sending up a drone for a big event. "That's going to give us a visual aid and the flexibility of being able to move a camera to a certain spot with great rapidity through a tremendous crowd," Deputy Commissioner of Intelligence and Counterterrorism John Miller said.

Continued on Page 4



In this Jan. 1, 2018, file photo, confetti flies over Times Square during the New Year's celebration in New York.

Associated Press

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# AP poll shows high job approval for Trump from veterans

By **EMILY SWANSON** and **HANNAH FINGERHUT**  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Nearly 6 in 10 military veterans voted for Republican candidates in the November midterm elections, and a similar majority had positive views of President Donald Trump's leadership. But women, the fastest growing demographic group in the military, are defying that vote trend. That's according to AP VoteCast, a nationwide survey of more than 115,000 midterm voters — including more than 4,000 current and former service members — conducted for The Associated Press by NORC at the University of Chicago. It found that veterans overall approved of



In this Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2018 photo, Michele Fitzpatrick, a retired lieutenant commander in the Coast Guard, poses for a photograph at the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn.

Associated Press

Trump's job performance, showing high support for the president's handling of border security and his ef-

orts to make the U.S. safer from terrorism. Male veterans were much more likely to approve

of Trump than those who haven't served, 58 percent to 46 percent. But 58 percent of female veterans disapproved of Trump, which is similar to the share of women overall (61 percent).

Some takeaways on veterans:

## TRUMP APPROVAL

Overall, 56 percent of veterans — both current and former service members — said they approve of the job Trump is doing as president, while 43 percent disapproved. Voters who have not served in the military were more likely to disapprove (58 percent) than approve (42 percent) of the president's job performance.

The survey found that differences in support for Trump between veterans and nonveterans extended across racial and ethnic groups, including among whites (62 percent of veterans approve versus 49 percent of nonveterans), Latinos (53 percent vs. 28 percent) and African-Americans (22 percent vs. 10 percent).

## TRUMP'S LEADERSHIP

The poll showed veterans more likely than nonveterans to say Trump has the right temperament to serve as president (48 percent to 32 percent) and that he's a strong leader (59 percent to 49 percent). They were slightly more likely to say Trump cares about "people like you" (46 percent to 40 percent).

On the issues, veterans were significantly more likely than those who have not served to approve of Trump's handling of border security, 62 percent to 48 percent, and to think the Trump administration has made the U.S. safer from terrorism, 51 percent to 35

percent.

## DRAIN THE SWAMP?

Veterans had good success running for Congress compared to previous years. Eighteen new veterans were elected to the House, seven of whom are Democrats.

That's the largest number of new veterans elected to the House since 2010, and the biggest influx of Democratic vets since 1996, according to Seth Lynn, a University of San Francisco professor who runs Veterans Campaign, a group that prepares veterans for careers in politics. One fresh veteran face — Republican Rick Scott of Florida — will join the Senate.

In all, more than 170 veterans were on November's congressional ballot as major-party candidates. Some vets, such as Kentucky Democrat Amy McGrath, a former Marine fighter pilot, ran close House races but ultimately fell short on Election Day.

A total of 96 military veterans will serve as lawmakers next year, 66 Republicans and 30 Democrats.

Lynn said veterans in previous elections had often chosen to run for office due to concerns over U.S. military policy, such as President George W. Bush's war in Iraq. But he said veteran candidates this election cycle seemed moved by general voter dissatisfaction with government.

"The military is the institution where many Americans have the most confidence, but that isn't the case with Congress," Lynn said. "For many of the Democratic women veterans who chose to run, it was basically a response to how they felt the Trump administration was doing and a call to service." □



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## Former Afghanistan commander warns of plans to cut troops

By KEVIN FREKING  
Associated Press

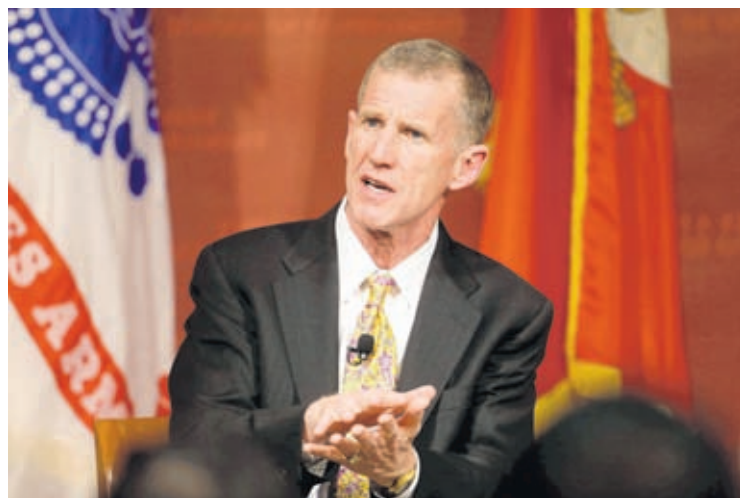
**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The former top U.S. commander in Afghanistan said Sunday that withdrawing up to half the 14,000 American

Pentagon to develop plans to withdraw thousands of American troops by next summer. Outgoing Defense Secretary Jim Mattis mentioned the order in his resignation letter. Mattis' last

on date certain, cutting down, weakening ourselves, their incentives to try to cut a deal drop dramatically," McChrystal said on ABC's "This Week." McChrystal also said he's worried that the Afghan

people will lose confidence in the U.S. as an ally that can be counted on. "I think we probably rocked them," said McChrystal, who commanded U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan for about a year.

He also was critical of President Donald Trump personally, saying he doesn't believe Trump tells the truth. The comment came when asked what he would say if he were asked to join the Trump administration. □



In this March 11, 2013, file photo retired U.S. Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal speaks during a forum called "Ask What You Can Do For America's Veterans" at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, in Cambridge, Mass.

Associated Press

troops serving there would reduce the incentive for the Taliban to negotiate a peace deal after more than 17 years of war. Retired Gen. Stanley McChrystal said the U.S. has "basically traded away the biggest leverage point we have." McChrystal's comments were in response to reports that President Donald Trump had ordered the

day in the administration is Monday. The U.S. and NATO formally concluded their combat mission in 2014, but American and allied troops remain, conducting strikes on the Islamic State group and the Taliban and working to train and build the Afghan military. "If you tell the Taliban that we are absolutely leaving

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In this Dec. 31, 2017, file photo, a police K-9 unit patrols in New York's Times Square where crowds were gathered for the annual New Year's Eve celebration.

Associated Press

#### NYPD DRONE

Continued from Front

Police Commissioner James O'Neill said there are no known, credible threats to the city or the New Year's Eve event. He encouraged spectators to remain vigilant and to alert officers if they suspect something is awry.

"There's probably going to be a cop within 10 feet of you," Miller said. "If you see something, you can go right to them directly."

Mayor Bill de Blasio said Friday that the city is expecting "up to 2 million people in Times Square itself" for the ball drop, repeating a figure often cited by city officials, organizers and television broadcasters.

Crowd-size experts say it's impossible to cram that many people into the area, a bow-tie-shaped zone running five blocks between Broadway and 7th Avenue, and that the real total is likely fewer than 100,000.

No matter how many people actually show up, they'll all be screened with metal detectors at security checkpoints and funneled into penned off areas to prevent overcrowding. Umbrellas, backpacks and coolers are banned, but those kitschy "2019" glasses are most definitely allowed in. And there won't be any popping champagne at midnight. The NYPD says alcohol is strictly prohibited. That might be for the best. There aren't any bath-

rooms, and anyone leaving the secure area won't be allowed back to their original spot. That means they'll risk missing the ball drop or having to squint hard to see it from a faraway vantage point.

Like last year, the NYPD is embedding detectives in hotels around Times Square in an attempt to thwart a potential attack like the one in Las Vegas last year in which a gunman shooting from a hotel room killed 59 people at an outdoor country music festival.

Police are also harnessing new technology to detect drones that aren't authorized to fly.

The NYPD's drone adds to a vast array of visual surveillance that includes more than 1,200 fixed cameras and feeds from police helicopters circling above.

The department started using drones this month. It says they'll mainly be used for search-and-rescue missions, documenting crime scenes and monitoring large events.


Several of the NYPD's drones are equipped with thermal-imaging and 3D-mapping capabilities and strong camera lenses that can greatly magnify a subject.

For safety, Chief of Department Terence Monahan said the New Year's Eve drone will be tethered to a building and flown in a cordoned-off area so that no one gets hurt if it happens to fall. The drone will never fly directly above the crowd, he said.

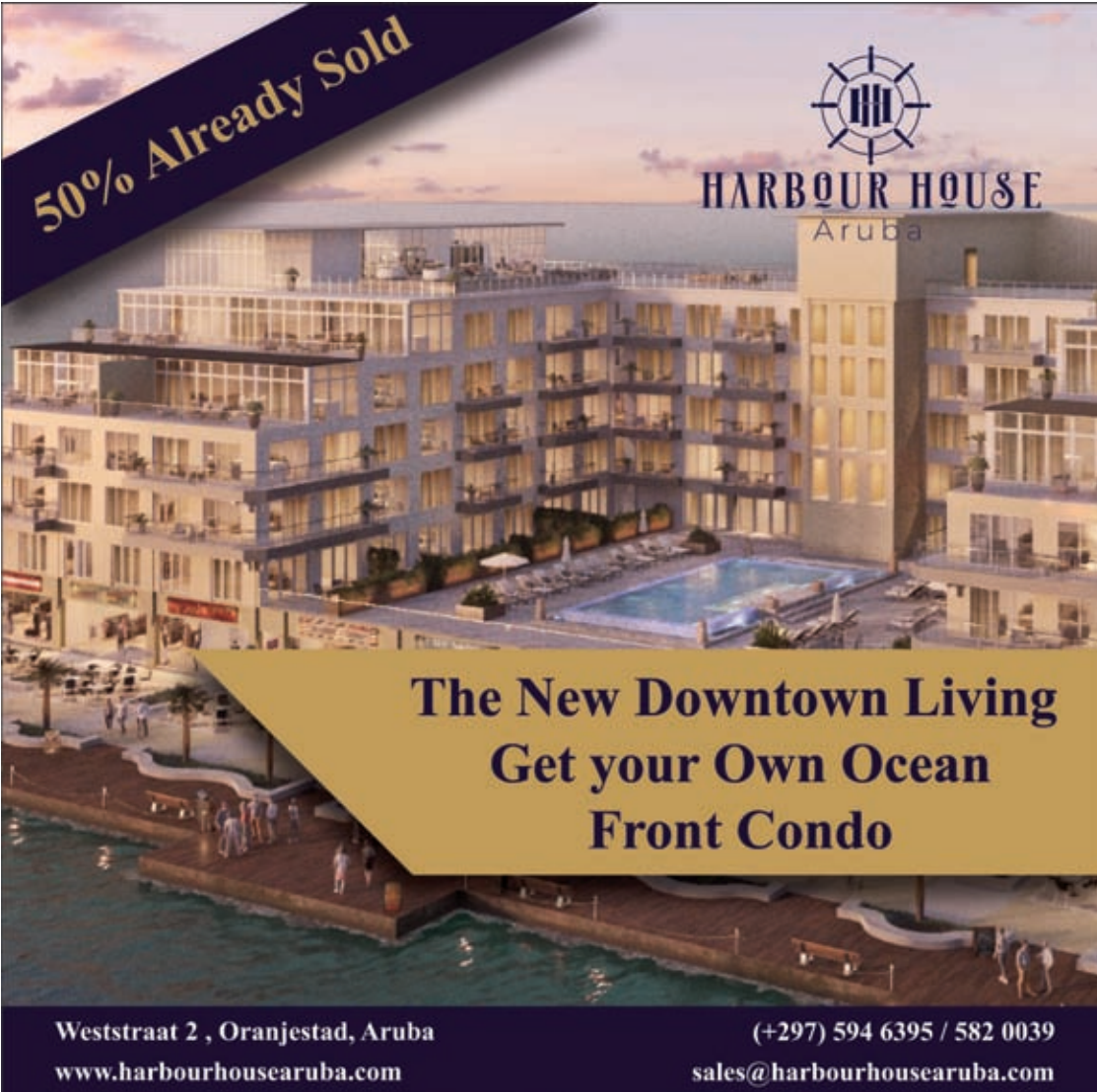
Unlike a helicopter, a drone is small and makes little noise. Between the sounds of performers like Christina Aguilera and Bastille and the confetti that'll be swirling at midnight, Monahan said some spectators might not even notice it.

"Once it's up in the air, it will probably be hard to see," he said. □

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# Lion kills worker after escaping locked area at conservatory

**BURLINGTON, N.C. (AP)** — A lion killed a worker at a wildlife conservatory Sunday after it got loose from a locked space, the center said.

The lion was shot and killed after it attacked the worker in an enclosure that was being cleaned at the Conservators Center in Caswell County, the center said in a statement.

A "husbandry team" led by a professionally trained animal keeper was carrying out the routine cleaning when the lion somehow got loose, the center said. It wasn't clear how the lion left the area that was supposed to be locked, said the center, which will be closed until further notice. "The Conservators Center is devastated by the loss of a human life today," the statement said.

The center said the lion was shot and killed to allow county personnel to retrieve the injured worker.

"This is an ongoing investigation, we have no further details at this time, and the family has not yet been notified. We will offer more information as we know more," the statement said. The facility was founded in 1999 and is in Burlington, about 50 miles northwest of Raleigh.

On its website, the center said it began giving public tours in 2007 and gets more than 16,000 visitors annually.

It has more than a dozen employees and currently houses more than 80 animals and more than 21 species.

The center says it took in 14 lions and tigers in 2004 to assist the U.S. Department of Agriculture with caring for animals that were living in "unacceptable conditions."

A message seeking comment was left with a spokesman for the county sheriff's office. □



The Conservators Center says a worker has been killed by a lion that got loose from a locked space, Sunday, Dec. 30, 2018, in Burlington, N.C.

Associated Press

# Filing: Utility could face charges in California wildfires

**SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)** — California's attorney general has told a federal judge it's possible the giant utility Pacific Gas & Electric Co. could face charges up to murder if investigators find reckless operation of power equipment caused any deadly wildfires in the past two years. The brief from the office of Attorney General Xavier Becerra is purely advisory, and any criminal charges would most likely be filed by county district attorneys, not the state, the Sacramento Bee reported. Prosecutors would have to assess PG&E's "mental state" before determining whether to bring charges, which could range from murder to misdemeanor negligence, according to the brief filed late Friday. The opinion was submitted to a judge overseeing

a criminal case involving a PG&E natural gas pipeline explosion that killed eight people in the San Francisco suburb of San Bruno in 2010. PG&E was convicted of violating federal pipeline safety laws, and the judge asked for the attorney general's opinion on whether any wildfires constitute a probation violation.

The company has until Monday to file its response to the court, but it told the newspaper: "PG&E's most important responsibility is public and workforce safety. Our focus continues to be on assessing our infrastructure to further enhance safety and helping our customers continue to recover and rebuild."

PG&E reported an equipment malfunction at the time and location where the fire started. □

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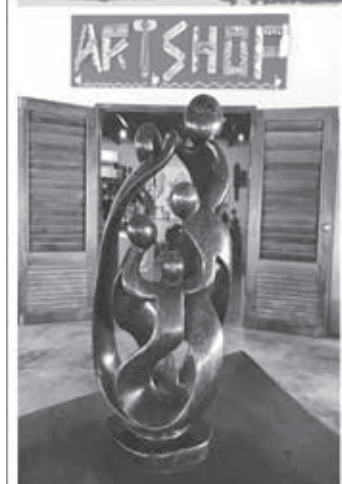
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In this Jan. 10, 2018, file photo, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents gather before serving an employment audit notice at a 7-Eleven convenience store, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

## Under Trump, ICE is face of hard-line immigration policy

By COLLEEN LONG

Associated Press

**RICHMOND, Va. (AP)** — The officers suit up in the pre-dawn darkness, wrapping on body armor, snapping in guns, pulling on black sweat shirts that read POLICE and ICE.

They gather around a con-

ference table in an ordinary office in a nondescript office park in the suburbs, going over their targets for the day: two men, both with criminal histories. Top of the list is a man from El Salvador convicted of drunken driving.

U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement's enforcement and removal operations, like the five-person field office team outside Richmond, hunt people in the U.S. illegally, some of whom have been here for decades, working and raising families. Carrying out President Donald Trump's hard-line immigration policies has exposed ICE to unprecedented public scrutiny and criticism, even though officers say they're doing largely the same job they did before the election — prioritizing criminals. But they have also stepped up arrests of people who have no U.S. criminal records. It is those stories of ICE officers arresting dads and grandmothers that pepper local news. Officers are heckled and videotaped. Some Democratic politicians have called for ICE to be abolished.

ICE employees have been threatened at their homes, their personal data exposed online, officials said. "There is a tension around 'It could be that somebody could find out what I do and hate me for it or do worse than hate me for it,'" Ronald Vitiello, acting head of the agency, told The Associated Press.

Vitiello said the agency is monitoring social media and giving employees resources for when they feel threatened.

ICE, formed after the Sept. 11 attacks, had been told under the Obama administration to focus on removing immigrants who had committed crimes. Trump, in one of his first moves in office, directed his administration to target anyone in the country illegally.

Government data back up that ICE is still mostly targeting people convicted

of a crime. But the data also show the agency has greatly ramped up arrests of people who were accused of a crime but not convicted, and increased arrests solely on immigration violations.

ICE arrested 32,977 people accused of crimes and 20,464 with immigration violations during the budget year 2018. There were 105,140 arrests of someone with a criminal conviction and 158,581 arrests overall. The most frequent criminal conviction was for drunken driving, followed by drug and traffic offenses.

By comparison, in the last budget year of the Obama administration, there were 94,751 people arrested with convictions, 6,267 arrests of those with pending charges and 9,086 on immigration violations. There were 111,104 arrests overall.

Advocates say a traffic violation shouldn't be enough to get you kicked out of the country. They accuse the agency of stoking fear and tearing families apart.

"You need some kind of agency to deal with immigration, but ICE is not that," New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, a Democrat, said on radio station WNYC. "ICE's time has come and gone; it is broken. ICE has been sent on a very negative, divisive mission, and it cannot function the way it is."

In response, some cities have banished ICE from jails where they could easily pick up immigration violators. Police in New York, Baltimore and Seattle rarely, if ever, give up information on when suspected criminals in the U.S. illegally will be released from custody. ICE officers now do more street operations and say they end up with more "collateral arrests," people they happen upon who are also in the country illegally. They rarely knock on doors anymore, instead spending hours surveilling and waiting outside. They haunt courthouses.

Continued on Next Page

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In this Nov. 9, 2018, photo Ronald Vitiello, acting head of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, gestures during an interview in Richmond, Va.

Associated Press

**Continued from Previous Page**  
In New York, a Mexican construction worker who has lived in the United States for more than a decade appeared before a judge. He was a week away from clearing his name in a low-level moving vehicle infraction. When he walked out of the courthouse, ICE officers were waiting for him. He was sent to a detention center and deported less than two weeks later. He left behind a wife and three children. "I didn't do anything," said the man, who spoke from Mexico but did not want to be identified because he fears for his family. "I am a hard-working person, I am not a criminal. I don't understand."

In Richmond, the team has a long list of targets, but they're the only officers doing fugitive enforcement so they must prioritize. They've been trailing the Salvadoran man for days. They split up into two cars and drive over to his apartment. It's pitch black. They wait. The radio crackles. An officer says someone has left but it's so dark it's impossible to see who it is. Lights flash. It's not who they're looking for, it's a woman. They send her on her way. The officers are jittery, thinking the mistake spooked the target. They wait. The man eventually emerges from his apartment as the sun begins to rise. He's wearing a neon-green shirt and construction work boots. He gets into his blue

SUV and pulls out. The officers box him in on both sides and flash blue lights. He's calm as they search him, and he gives them an expired El Salvador passport. His name: Jose Gilberto Macua Gutierrez. One of the officers backs Macua's SUV back into a parking spot, and he's handcuffed, driven back to the office, fingerprinted and placed alone in a holding cell. The operation took too long — they missed the window for their second target. They will try again. "It's a rare thing to be arrested in the country if you haven't violated the law," Vitiello said. "If someone is here and don't otherwise come across the criminal justice system, it's very rare

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that they are going to be arrested by ICE, despite the perceptions that are out there." □

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## Merkel vows Germany will keep pushing for 'global solutions'

By GEIR MOULSON

**BERLIN (AP)** — Chancellor Angela Merkel says Germany will keep pushing for global solutions to challenges in 2019 and also has to take greater responsibility in the world.

Closing a politically turbulent 2018 in Germany, Merkel devotes a significant part of her annual New Year's address to the merits of bringing a multilateral approach to international problems — a style she has consistently defended in the face of U.S. President Donald Trump's "America First" tactics.

The fourth-term chancellor pointed to curbing climate change, managing migration and combating terrorism as the kinds of challenges that benefit from a



German Chancellor Angela Merkel poses for a photograph after the recording of her annual New Year's speech at the Chancellery in Berlin, Germany, Sunday, Dec. 30, 2018.

Associated Press

wide view. Germany starts a two-year stint on the U.N. Security Council on Jan. 1. "We want to resolve all these questions in our own interest, and we can do that best if we consider the

interests of others," Merkel said in a text of the message her office released ahead of a scheduled Monday broadcast. "That is the lesson from the two world wars of the last

century," she added. "But this conviction is no longer shared today by everyone, and certainties of international cooperation are coming under pressure."

"In such a situation, we must again stand up for, argue and fight more strongly for our convictions," Merkel said. "And we must take on more responsibility in our own interests."

She said Germany will push for "global solutions" at the U.N. and noted the country is spending more on humanitarian aid and defense. She said Berlin wants to make the European Union "more robust and able to make decisions." Turning to home, Merkel acknowledged that many Germans have "struggled very much" with her latest

government amid persistent infighting since it took office in March after unprecedentedly long talks to form the governing coalition. She said it had been "an extremely difficult political year."

Germany's leader for 13 years said she set the stage for a "new beginning" in late October by announcing she won't seek a fifth term. She also gave up the leadership of the conservative Christian Democratic Union, Germany's main center-right party, which has been led since Dec. 7 by ally Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer.

Merkel has said she plans to remain chancellor for the rest of this parliamentary term, which is supposed to run until 2021. □

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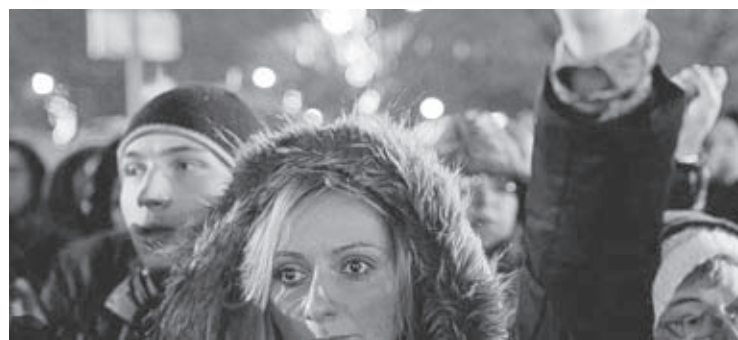
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## Bosnia: Protesters demand resignations over student's death



Protesters shout slogans including "Justice for David" during protest, in Banja Luka, Bosnia on Sunday, Dec. 30, 2018.

Associated Press

By AMEL EMRIC

Associated Press

**BANJA LUKA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP)** — Several thousand people rallied Sunday in support of a Bosnian father who helped launch a movement for justice and rule of law while pursuing the truth about his 21-year-old son's death. Bosnians inspired by Davor Dragicevic's quest demanded the ouster of the

Bosnian Serb interior minister and top police officials over the death in March of Dragicevic's son David.

Police initially said it was a suicide, but the young man's family insists he was killed by someone else. Prosecutors opened a homicide investigation that is ongoing. Davor Dragicevic has accused Serb police officials of protecting his son's

killers and says he won't leave a central square in the city of Banja Luka until his demands are met.

"There is no turning back. I have nowhere else to go," Dragicevic told the crowd that came out to back him. "It's New Year's, Christmas-time, but where is my David?"

Bosnian Serb officials have denied shielding suspects in the slaying of the younger Dragicevic. The Serb member of Bosnia's multi-ethnic presidency, Milorad Dodik, has described the protests as "political." Tensions have soared in the Serb-run part of Bosnia since Tuesday, when police briefly detained Dragicevic and several other people. Bosnia consists of a Serb and a Muslim-Croat entity that were created after a 1992-95 war. □



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## Journalist group counts 94 slayings of media staff in 2018

By **RAF CASERT**  
**MARK CARLSON**  
Associated Press

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — An international trade association says on-the-job slayings of journalists and news media staff rose again in 2018 following an overall decline during the past half-dozen years.

The International Federation of Journalists said in an annual report set for release Monday that 94 journalists and media workers died in targeted killings, bomb attacks and conflict crossfire this year, 12 more than in 2017.

Before the declines seen in five of the past six years, 121 people working for news organizations were slain in 2012. Since the federation started its annual count in 1990, the year with the most work-related killings, 155, was 2006.

The deadliest country for people who work in the news media this year was Afghanistan, where 16 of the killings occurred. Mexico was next, with 11. Yemen had nine media slayings and Syria eight in 2018. Beyond the tragedy of lives lost, such killings affect the pursuit of truth and sharing of information in communities and countries where they happen, the president of the International Federation of Journalists said.

"Journalists are targeted because they are witnesses," the group's president, Philippe Leruth, told The Associated Press. "And the result of this, when a journalist or many journalists are killed in a country, you see an increase of self-censorship." Iraq, where 309 media professionals were killed over

the past quarter-century, long topped the federation's annual list. The federation identified a photo-journalist as the one victim in the country this year.

While 2018 brought a worldwide increase, the total remained in the double digits for a second year running. The total of 155 in.

The IFJ connects some 600,000 media professionals from 187 trade unions and associations in more than 140 countries. The group said the new report showed that journalists face dangers apart from the risks of reporting from war zones and covering extremist movements.

"There were other factors, such as the increasing intolerance to independent reporting, populism, rampant corruption and crime, as well as the breakdown of law and order," the Brussels-based group said in a statement.

Suddenly high on the list, in sixth place, was the United States with five killings. On June 28, a gunman in Annapolis, Maryland, opened fire in the newsroom of the Capital Gazette newspaper and fatally shot four journalists and a sales associate. The man had threatened the newspaper after losing a defamation lawsuit.

The Oct. 2 slaying of Saudi writer Jamal Khashoggi, a columnist for The Washington Post who lived in self-imposed exile in the United States, had worldwide impact. He went to the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul to formalize a divorce so he could marry his Turkish fiancée, but instead was strangled and dismembered

there - allegedly by Saudi agents.

Khashoggi wrote critically of Saudi Arabia's royal regime, and the alleged involvement of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in the journalist's slaying has put the governments of other countries un-

der pressure to sever economic and political ties.

"Jamal Khashoggi was a very well-known figure, but you know, the most shocking statistic is that we know that nine of 10 journalist murders remain unpunished in the world," Leruth said.





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## 16 dead in Bangladeshi vote opposition calls 'farcical'

By JULHAS ALAM  
EMILY SCHMALL  
Associated Press  
DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)

— More than a dozen people were killed in election-related violence in Bangladesh on Sunday, as voters went to the polls to decide whether to give Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina a third consecutive term amid opposition claims that her leadership has become increasingly authoritarian. The leader of Bangladesh's opposition alliance called Sunday's vote "farcical," saying any outcome would be rejected and demanding that a new election be held under the authority of a "nonpartisan government."

The election campaign was marred by allegations of arrests and jailing of thousands of Hasina's opponents.

Opposition leader Kamal Hossain said a few hours after voting ended that about 100 candidates from the alliance had withdrawn from their races during the day. He said the alliance would hold a meeting Monday to decide its next course.

"We call upon the Election Commission to declare this election void and demand a fresh election under a nonpartisan government," Hossain told reporters at a nationally broadcast news conference.

Calls to several Hasina aides seeking comment were not immediately returned.

Bangladesh's leading English-language newspaper, the Daily Star, said 16 people were killed in 13



Bangladeshi women line up outside a polling station to cast their votes in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Sunday, Dec. 30, 2018.

Associated Press

districts in election-related violence.

In the run-up to the election, activists from both the ruling party and the opposition complained of attacks on supporters and candidates.

On Sunday, The Associated Press received more than 50 calls from people across the country who identified themselves as opposition supporters complaining of intimidation and threats, and being forced to vote in front of ruling party men inside polling booths.

"Some stray incidents have happened. We have asked our officials to deal with them," K.M. Nurul Huda, Bangladesh's chief election commissioner, said as he cast his vote in the capital, Dhaka.

The election campaign was marred by the arrests and jailing of what the opposition said were thousands of Hasina opponents, including six candidates for Parliament.

"Hasina's use of the state machinery to subjugate the opposition virtually ensures her electoral victory," said Sasha Riser-Kositsky, a South Asia analyst for the New York-based Eurasia Group.

Hasina has expressed confidence in the outcome, inviting election observers and foreign journalists to her official residence on Monday, when the results were expected to be known.

While rights groups have sounded the alarms about the erosion of Bangladesh's

democracy, Hasina has promoted a different narrative, highlighting an ambitious economic agenda that has propelled Bangladesh past larger neighbors Pakistan and India by some development measures.

Voters "will give us another opportunity to serve them so that we can maintain our upward trend of development, and take Bangladesh forward as a developing country," Hasina said after casting her ballot along with her daughter and sister in Dhaka.

Hasina's main rival is former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, the leader of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, who a court deemed ineligible to run for office because she is in prison for corruption.

The two women have been in and out of power — and prison — for decades.

In Zia's absence, opposition parties formed a coalition led by Hossain, an 82-year-old Oxford-educated lawyer and former member of Hasina's Awami League party.

Both sides were hoping to avoid a repeat of 2014, when Zia and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party boycotted elections and voter turnout in the South Asian nation of 160 million was only 22 percent. More than half of the 300 parliamentary seats were uncontested. The Awami League's landslide victory was met with violence that left at least 22 people dead.

On Sunday, some 104 million people in the Muslim-majority country were eligible to vote, including many young, first-time voters.

Walking with a cane, Hossain cast his vote near his home in Dhaka, saying he was receiving complaints about vote-tampering and intimidation from various parts of the country.

The more than 40,000 polling stations nationwide closed at 4 p.m., as the Islamic call to prayer came over loudspeakers.

At a polling station in the ancient city of Panam Nagar, about 20 kilometers (12 miles) southeast of Dhaka, the counting of the roughly 1,600 votes cast began immediately after voting ended. Plastic bins full of paper ballots were dumped onto a sheet on the floor, where 10 people sat in a circle to organize and count the votes. □





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# N. Korean leader calls for more talks with South in new year

By KIM TONG-HYUNG

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— North Korean leader Kim Jong Un sent a letter to South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Sunday calling for more peace talks between the leaders in the new year following their active engagement in 2018, South Korea's presidential office said.

Moon's office said Kim also expressed regret that he couldn't make a planned visit to Seoul, South Korea's capital, by the end of December as pledged by the leaders during their last summit in September in Pyongyang, the North Korean capital. The Blue House didn't fully disclose Kim's letter.

Moon later thanked Kim for his "warm" letter in a tweeted message and said without elaborating that Kim expressed strong willingness to carry out the agreements he made this year during a series of inter-Korean summits and a historic June meeting with President Donald Trump.

"There will still be a lot of difficulties ahead," Moon said in his message.

"However, our hearts will become more open if we put in that much effort. There's no change in our heart about welcoming Chairman Kim (to the South)."

The tweet also included a photo that showed a ruby-colored folder emblazoned with the seal of Pyongyang's powerful State Affairs Commission and the top part of Kim's letter, which started with: "Dear your excellency President Moon Jae-in. Our meeting in Pyongyang feels like yesterday but about 100 days have already passed and now we are at the close of an unforgettable 2018."

Through three summits between Moon and Kim this year, the Koreas agreed to a variety of goodwill gestures and vowed to resume economic cooperation when possible, voicing optimism that international sanctions could end to allow such activity.

The rivals have also taken steps to reduce their conventional military threat, such as removing mines and firearms from the border village of Panmunjom, destroying some front-line guard posts and creating buffer zones along their land and sea boundaries and a no-fly zone above the border.

"Chairman Kim said that the leaders by meeting three times in a single year and implementing bold measures to overcome the long period of conflict lifted our (Korean) nation from military tension and war fears," Kim Eui-kyeom, Moon's spokesman, said in a televised briefing.

"Chairman Kim said he will keep a close eye on the situation and expressed strong will to visit Seoul."

... Chairman Kim also expressed his intentions to meet President Moon frequently again in 2019 to advance discussions on the Korean Peninsula's peace and prosperity and discuss issues on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," the spokesman said.

Moon's office did not reveal how Kim Jong Un's letter was delivered or whether he made any comments about his planned second summit with Trump in 2019. The letter comes days before Kim is expected to address North Koreans in a New Year's speech that North Korean leaders traditionally use to announce major policy decisions and goals. □



In this April 27, 2018, file photo, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, left, prepares to shake hands with South Korean President Moon Jae-in over the military demarcation line at the border village of Panmunjom in Demilitarized Zone.

Associated Press

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## Brazil military academy offers glimpse of next government

By MARCELO SILVA DE SOUZA

Associated Press

**RESENDE, Brazil (AP)** — A phrase written on the outer wall of Brazil's most prestigious military academy gives a glimpse at the values held by the incoming government of President-elect Jair Bolsonaro, an ex-army captain whose administration will be rife with generals.

"In order to lead, learn to obey," reads the slogan greeting aspiring military officers arriving at the Agulha Negras Military Academy that educated Bolsonaro and a good chunk of his Cabinet. He takes office on New Year's Day.

Bolsonaro, who waxes nostalgic for Brazil's 1964-1985 military dictatorship, makes no bones about his debt to the academy, which he graduated from in 1977. He also attended the army's preparatory school in Campinas, Sao Paulo.

"I am very happy to be in this house that formed me. I owe almost everything in this life to the beloved Brazilian army," Bolsonaro said Dec. 1 during the annual officer graduation ceremony at the school, which is in Resende in Rio de Janeiro state.

The academy graduates he has named to his government include incoming Vice President Hamilton Mourao, Institutional Security Minister Augusto Heleno, Political Relations with Congress Minister Carlos Alberto dos Santos Cruz, Transparency Minister Wagner dos Campos Rosario and Infrastructure Minister Tarcisio Freitas.

In this Dec. 1, 2018 photo, Brazil's President-elect Jair Bolsonaro, left, and Minister of Defense, Gen. Joaquim Silva e Luna, attend a graduation ceremony at the Agulhas Negras Military Academy in Resende, Brazil.

sio Freitas.

"This is a school of leaders," Gen. Ricardo Costa Neves, the academy's commander, told The Associated Press.

The academy was founded in 1941, and entering its 27-square-mile (70-square-kilometer) compound finds an imposing silence. Here, discipline is a cornerstone of academic and military formation. In addition to core subjects such as economics, sociology and political science, each cadet receives rigorous physical training, including techniques for surviving in the Amazon rainforest.

Marcelo Moraes de Sousa, an army reserve officer, summarized the four main principles inculcated at the academy: truth, integrity,

honesty and loyalty.

"Here nobody relinquishes those values; they are a part of the uniform we wear forever," said Moraes de Sousa, who trained with Bolsonaro at the academy. In a nation beset by political and economic turmoil after years of entrenched graft, they are precisely the values that helped the tough-talking Bolsonaro cruise to a 10-point victory in October elections.

During the campaign, the soldier-turned-longtime congressman argued he had consistently placed himself at the service of Brazil and noted he had not been accused of corruption despite the far-reaching "Car Wash" scandal that ensnared many in the country's political elite.

He promised to reach out to the military in forming his government and pledged that each of Brazil's 26 state capitals will have at least one military school in operation by the midpoint of his term, up from the current 11.

These perceived values and pledges led many Brazilians weary of crime and corruption to vote for the far-right politician despite a history of comments seen as homophobic, racist and offensive to women. Brazil's security forces have been a central focus of Bolsonaro's political career. During his 27 years as a congressman, issues concerning the military and police accounted for about one-third of his 642 legislative filings. His proposals ranged

from improving the benefits and health care of servicemen, including veterans of World War II, to shielding police who use force, even lethal, from prosecution.

In another proposition in 2013, Bolsonaro called for the lower Chamber of Deputies to have a formal session to mark 50 years since the beginning of the dictatorship.

"The Brazilian people put in the armed forces to defend order, respect for democracy and to avoid the Cubanization that was coming," he wrote, alluding to the 1959 Cuban revolution.

More controversially, the incoming vice president made comments last year that were seen as supporting military intervention as a way of resolving Brazil's political crisis.

But analysts say such military intervention is unlikely. "The risk of the military exceeding Bolsonaro's power and democracy falling into crisis is very small because today there are institutions in Brazil capable of controlling that," said Carlos Fico, a historian at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro who has studied dictatorships in Latin America.

At the military academy, the president-elect's supporters are convinced Bolsonaro will stay true to the message on its outer wall.

"He had a very strong leadership instinct. He was obsessed with things being well-done," Moraes recalled of Bolsonaro, before his eyes filled with tears. "Having studied with him makes me feel very honored." □



## LOCAL



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## There is More to the Eyes than You See



**ORANJESTAD** – In the year 1974 a group of enthusiastic people, stimulated by the Netherlands, founded the “Stichting Blindenzorg Aruba” foundation. In 1975 the name was changed to the Papiamentu name “Fundacion Arubano di esnan Visualmente Incapacita,” abbreviated as FAVI, easily recognizable in the community. The name FAVI nowadays is directly linked to the visually impaired. Cetty Baarh, Director of the foundation: “FAVI is for the blind and visually impaired, we are the only one on the island that gives guidance to this group. The objective is to help and guide them with the main purpose to make them happy again. We focus first on happiness because when the person feels good about her or himself again after losing her or his sight, only then we can mean something to them. Only then they accept our help and if they do we concentrate on what they want and need.”

### Reintegration into Society

Either the eye specialist or the client initiates to come to FAVI. Next they go to their home to see the situation and register their needs. “What do you want? How is your home situation? Do you have problems at your job? are some of the questions we ask. After that we do a practical visual check with a revalidation therapist. The test is not medical but for us to determine the person’s visual capacity. When a person has 30% or less they are considered a visually impaired person.” In general people with a vision above that, they are not accepted. However the exception is when their func-

tional system is not working well, we need to set a guideline. FAVI has ten workers, the director, two teachers, bus drivers, receptionist, and cleaning lady among others. A revalidation therapist gives all trainings and operates the vision testing. She teaches patients how to work on the computer, typing and does Braille classes for clients and teachers as well.

It does not stop there, as the assistant at the school also has to teach Braille to the parents. There are information briefings to the police school and lectures within the community. The activity coordinator takes care of all social activities like trips to the beach or casino and bus trips, a Christmas celebration or a comedy show visit. The social workers visit the homes of the clients and organize conversational sessions as there are so many topics that the clients have issues with and in this group they talk and find solutions. “Depressions are common with our clients but this group helps them a lot, there is a way out. We focus on what they can still do and on acceptance. If you were able to see before and lose your sight it is really very difficult. When a child is born without sight mostly the parents have problems. We need to teach the child how the world appears and we paint that world. Their social behavior differs often from other children as their senses are more developed and they express in a different way which can cause misunderstandings.

### 3, 105 Visually Impaired

According to Census Aruba 2010 there are 3,105 visually impaired people. FAVI only has 350 clients, by percentage that is comparable to the Netherlands and Curacao. “They do not look for help easily. The reasons are the taboo, they are embarrassed to get out, do not want people to know and will try to ignore it, as long as manageable. Other factors are they do not wish to burden the family so they keep themselves isolated”, the director explains. The majority of the clients are visually impaired because of glaucoma or diabetes; for sure 80% of those illnesses are the cause and also age. A smaller group is born with the illness, like premature babies, babies with eye disease or born with cataracts. “Before the age range was 60 and up, but the clients are

getting younger, so 50 and up is now applicable but a growing group are young people in their twenties. This is because of the unhealthy eating lifestyle so they get diabetes that can go hand-in-hand with losing sight.”

### Reach Out

FAVI visits the doctors to underline the importance of referring clients to them. “We would like to reach everybody, we have the knowledge in-house and the professionals working here. We call on the community to be open to us, even if you do not have this problem yourself, you might know someone in your neighborhood, and friends, family and you help a lot to inform them about us to coax them out of isolation.

### Needs

“We would love tourists to come and see our facility to see what we have to offer and interact with clients. Clients are always open to that, so call us and stop by. Every Wednesday we have gym class and we have other classes, it would be great to show you how we work and have you spread the word,” Baarh says. FAVI as a foundation receives a government subsidy, mainly to pay the workers and they have other funds from different donations. “We do activities to get funding and we have collectors. We can only run by that. We are in need of equipment and that is expensive, especially for the blind and visually impaired, like Braille type machines, printers etc. For example we have two blind children on the island that follow regular education completely in Braille, so they have their typing machine for Braille. But the technology is advancing and we need to be able to keep up to make sure these kids can proceed in the regular system.” □



If you would like to visit the foundation, please call + (297) 582-5222 or 582-5051 and ask for Cetty Baarh. If you would like to donate, the bank account is RBC Bank 31 36 6122 or Arubabank 7024380290. For more information visit the website: <http://www.favi-aruba.org/> or Facebook: FAVI. Thank You!



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**'AT' Press Time:**

The Aruba Today Newspaper announces that due to the holidays, we will not be in circulation Tuesday, January 1st, or Wednesday, January 2nd. We will be back on newsstands everywhere bright and early to serve our readers and advertisers first thing in the morning, Thursday, January 3rd. Until then, Season's Greetings and Happy Holidays from the team at the Aruba Today Newspaper, Aruba's ONLY English Newspaper!





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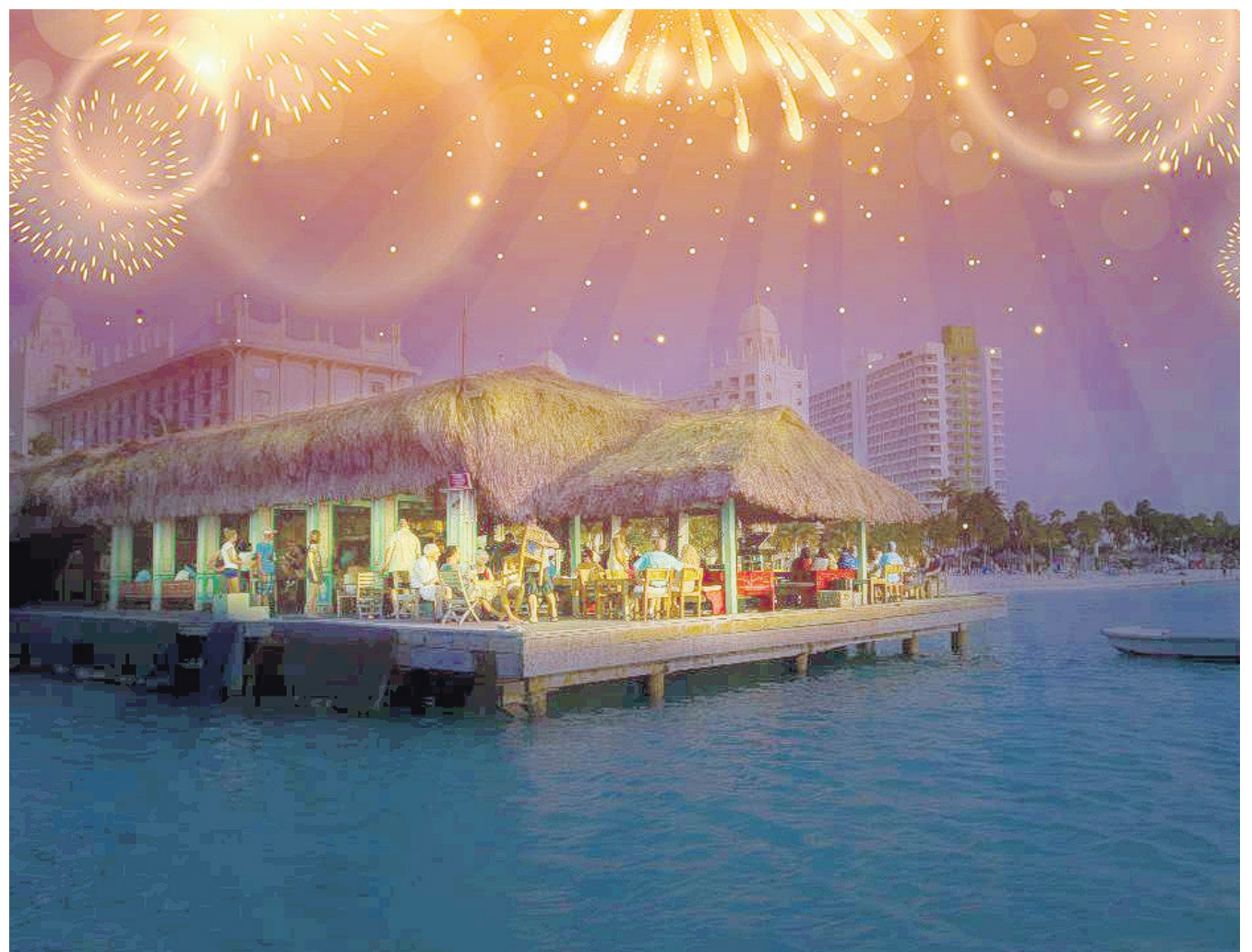
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## Diamonds for Hope



**ORANJESTAD** — Diamonds International, in collaboration with its staff Yolanda Oduber, Jibel Ruiz, Faiza Tromp, Adelita Erasmus, Nina Harjani, Chitra Chhabria, Carolyn Kelly and a Special thanks to our Santa Claus Carlos Lopez, hosted a lovely Christmas event at the Stichting H.O.P.E for the Precious Elderly people on December 27, 2018 in keeping with the cheerful and giving spirit of the holiday season.

### More about H.O.P.E

The foundation is designed, to take care of our precious elderly. The aim is for these elders to experience life as long and enjoyable as possible in their final phases of life. It is a 24-hour care facility, from a Dutch standard view. The foundation wants to brush up the knowledge and skills of the Aruban nurses by training and given them up to date materials. Hope has of today location one in Tanki Leendert. More information: <http://www.stichtinghope.com/>

Diamonds International Aruba is committed to giving back to the local community and appreciated the opportunity to participate in this initiative. □



## Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!

**NOORD** - It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process. It can take anywhere from 10 to 30



years to make sea glass. The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass."

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry! Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges. Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being

dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass.

Each colored gem on the beach has its own story. The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights. Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken

apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer) and clear glass which are the soft much loved "soft drink" bottles.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day! Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes. Funny, how trash can change into treasures! Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! □





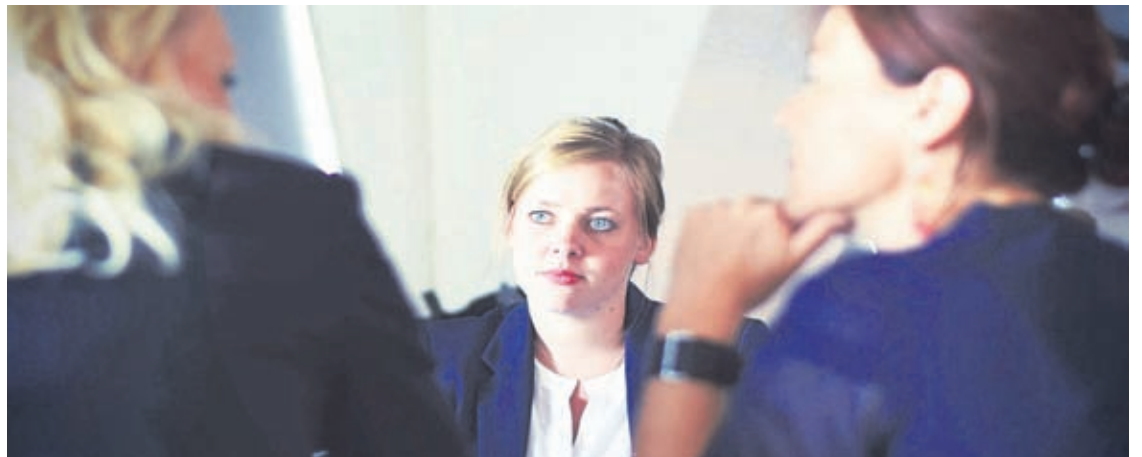
# Hotel Hustle

Column by: Shanella Pantophlet

## Beyond Control

If there's one thing I've learned over the course of my career, it's that you can't control everything. As someone who has tried to account for every variable during a given week, only to have something else pop up, I've quite honestly learned my lesson. I try to use that mindset whenever I'm traveling, because things can and do happen through no fault of anyone.

ever I'm traveling, because things can and do happen through no fault of anyone. Empathy is a big part of our job, we are supposed to place ourselves in the shoes of our guests and think about how an issue could negatively impact them. It's for this reason that once a guest brings an issue to our attention the first thing we do is apologize for the inconvenience and then provide ways of remedying the situation.



Usually this is enough to calm and placate guests and if it's something out of our control they are understanding of that. On the other hand there are guests who will be unhappy with the situation and will let you know it by blowing off steam at you and we understand that reaction. However there are instances where staff members have had to draw a line in the sand. Once of my former teachers would always tell us, you can't please everyone and some things you need to just roll off you back. But you may still encounter someone who is unhappy with the answers and solutions provided, who will attempt to get a raise out of you by verbally abusing you.

We've all at some stage had to deal with abusive guests and there comes a time where we have to draw the line and explain to the guest in no uncertain terms that their tone or manner of speech is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Normally that is enough to snap some people out of their tirade. Other times this enrages then even more at which point the staff member has to explain to the guest that until they change their attitude they will not be provided service or if they continue to act out and make threats or personal insults security will be involved. It's not an easy position to be in, because we are trying to provide service and be empathetic, but we are not human punching bags. If we have done everything we can and given as much information as we have at hand and that is not enough for some, it is okay to be upset, but never reason to be abusive. It's one of the top reasons there's such a high turnover in certain positions in hotels, because staff feel like they are seen as less than human for something that's not in their power to fix. We know it's inconvenient, but certain things like cell phone service dropping out, beach erosion or an island wide blackout are really out of our hands. Screaming and throwing a tantrum at the first person you see in a uniform will not get the lights back on quicker, restore phone service or make the beach come back. It's always good to take a step back review the issue, get the necessary information and react responsibly. □



Aruban born and bred Shanella Pantophlet is passionate about tourism. That is the world she studied and works in, so we might as well call her a specialist. Luckily for Aruba Today Shanella also loves to write. And together with the fact that the majority of our readers are tourists, we found ourselves a perfect combination for a column: Hotel Hustle.



# SPORTS



Alabama head coach Nick Saban cheers his team, during the second half of the Orange Bowl NCAA college football game against Oklahoma, Saturday, Dec. 29, 2018, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

Associated Press

## College Football Playoff: Alabama, Clemson again for title

By STEPHEN HAWKINS  
AP Sports Writer

Alabama and Clemson, again.

The top-ranked Crimson Tide and No. 2 Tigers both had double-digit victories in their semifinal games Saturday, setting up what has quickly become an annual postseason meeting. They will meet in the College Football Playoff for the fourth consecutive year, the third time in the championship game.

And the winner this time will become the first 15-0 FBS champion.

Alabama-Clemson Part IV, Nick Saban vs. Dabo Swinney, comes Jan. 7 on the opposite side of the country for both teams. The national title will be at the home stadium of the NFL's San Francisco 49ers in Santa Clara, California.

This matchup has seemed inevitable since the Tide and Tigers started the season ranked 1-2.

Continued on Page 20

## SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY



## Texans win AFC South title

Houston Texans defensive end Carlos Watkins celebrates after sacking Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback Blake Bortles during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Dec. 30, 2018, in Houston.

Associated Press  
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## Fournier's buzzer beater lifts Magic past Pistons 109-107

By BILL FAY

**ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)** — Evan Fournier's running jumper in the lane as the buzzer sounded gave the Orlando Magic a 109-107 win over the Detroit Pistons on Sunday.

D.J. Augustin led the Magic with 26 points and eight assists, and Nikola Vucevic and Aaron Gordon each scored 22 points. Fournier finished with 13.

Luke Kennard scored 16 points to lead the Pistons. Reggie Bullock and Blake Griffin had 15 apiece and Andre Drummond had 14 points and 15 rebounds. Fournier's winning basket ended a wild finish in which Detroit wiped out an eight-point deficit in the final three minutes only to lose for the 11th time in their last 14 games.

Neither team led by more than six points in the second half until Augustin sparked an 8-0 run with back-to-back 3-pointers and fed Jonathan Isaac for a fastbreak layup that gave Orlando a 95-87 lead with 7:07 left in the game. Later in the quarter, Augustin stole a rebound from Drummond, drove the lane and whipped a wrap-around pass to Vucevic for an uncontested layup that made it 104-95 with 3 1/2

minutes to go.

Detroit rallied quickly, getting 3-pointers from Bruce Brown and Bullock. A layup by Reggie Jackson cut the deficit to 105-104 with 8.9 seconds remaining.

Terrence Ross got loose for a breakaway dunk with 5.4 seconds to go but Bullock was fouled on a 3-point attempt by Orlando's Jerian Grant with 2.5 seconds and made all three free throws to tie the game at 107.

Fournier took the inbounds pass and immediately drove into the lane, lofting his shot just before the buzzer sound to give Orlando its second straight win.

### TIP-INS

**Pistons:** Detroit came into the game off a season-worst 37-point loss to Indiana. ... Detroit is No. 1 in offensive rebounding advantage over opponents with a plus-110 margin coming in. The Pistons added to that, grabbing 17 rebounds to 10 for the Magic. ... Griffin took a nasty fall when he slipped on a wet floor while trying to inbound the ball after a turnover. Griffin lay on the floor for 15 seconds before getting up and continuing play.

**Magic:** PG D.J. Augustin badly sprained his ankle after stepping on Griffin's foot with 1:44 left in the game,

but stayed in the game. ... Orlando came in off a season-best 29-point win over Toronto. ... F Jonathon Simmons left the game in the second quarter with an ankle injury and did not return. ... The Magic outscored the Pistons 22-8 in points in the paint in the first quarter. □



Orlando Magic's Terrence Ross, left, goes up to shoot as he gets past Detroit Pistons' Reggie Jackson (1) during the final seconds of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Dec. 30, 2018, in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press



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**COLLEGE FOOTBALL**

Continued from Page 18

They will also likely finish that way, like they did two seasons ago when they began the season as the top two teams in the AP Top 25. Both have regularly been winning games by wide margins this year.

Clemson freshman Trevor Lawrence threw for 327 yards and three touchdowns as the ACC champion Tigers beat No. 3 Notre Dame 30-3 in the Cotton Bowl.

"Phenomenal night," Swinney said.

Alabama jumped out to a 28-0 lead on way to its 45-34 win in the Orange Bowl over Heisman Trophy winner Kyler Murray and Big 12 champion Oklahoma.

"Really proud of our team. It's a great win for us," Saban said. "Oklahoma has got a great program and a great team, a great offensive team for sure, a lot of weapons, a lot of firepower."

Before Alabama had to rally to beat Georgia 35-28 in the SEC championship game, the closest margin for the Crimson Tide had been 24 points. That was 24-0 over then-No. 18 Mississippi State on Nov. 10 when



Clemson celebrates their 30-3 win against Notre Dame in the NCAA Cotton Bowl semi-final playoff football game, Saturday, Dec. 29, 2018, in Arlington, Texas. Clemson won 30-3.

Associated Press

they posted their second consecutive shutout victory. Since winning 28-26 at Texas A&M and 27-23 against Syracuse in the first

month of the season, Clemson has won its last nine games by an average margin of 37 points. The closest game in that stretch was a

20-point win at then-No. 17 Boston College — on the same day as Alabama's closest call in the regular season. The Crimson Tide will be going for their sixth national championship in Saban's 12 seasons. Swinney is in his 10th full season as Clemson's coach.

"Well, you know they've got a great program and great team and Dabo has done a great job there, and they've got a great program," Saban said. "So I'm sure it'll be a real challenge for us, and I'm sure we'll need to play better than we did today."

Alabama beat fellow SEC

team Georgia in last year's CFP title game after a 24-6 win over Clemson in its semifinal game at the Sugar Bowl.

"We got our butts beat last year. I'm just thankful that we got back and has a better result," Swinney said. "We make every game the biggest game of the year. We really do. ... Our daily structure prepares us for this moment. I always tell them, we're built for this."

Clemson won the 2016 championship — its only other national title was 1981 — with a 35-31 victory over Alabama after Hunter Renfrow, now a Tigers senior, caught a 2-yard TD from DeShaun Watson with a second remaining in Tampa Bay.

Alabama beat the Tigers 45-40 in Arizona for the 2015 title after the two teams combined for a 40-point fourth quarter.

Before Alabama and Clemson, the last time the same two teams started and ended the season 1-2 in the AP poll was in 2005. Southern Cal was No. 1 all season until losing to Texas and Vince Young in the national championship game. □

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## Return to sender: Roger Federer looking forward to Serena's serve

By TRISTAN LAVALETTE  
Associated Press

PERTH, Australia (AP) — Roger Federer's wish is about to be granted — he's getting the chance to return Serena Williams' powerful serve.

The famously unflappable Swiss acknowledges being excited about the prospect of taking on his fellow tennis great on Tuesday in a Hopman Cup mixed doubles match between Switzerland and the United States. "I admire everything she has done both on and off the court," Federer said. "I have always thought how is it to return that serve and go head-to-head with her." Federer made an impressive start in preparation for

his Australian Open title defense with a seemingly effortless 6-1, 6-1 victory over Cameron Norrie on Sunday.

His playing partner Belinda Bencic also won to seal defending champion Switzerland's victory over Britain in Group B.

Federer and Bencic will next take on Williams and Frances Tiafoe to kick-start the New Year with arguably the most anticipated match in the tournament's three-decade history.

Tickets were sold out soon after being released for the showpiece encounter, which pits Federer and Williams on court for the first time. The 37-year-olds have won 43 Grand Slam singles

titles between them.

"It's very exciting for us. I hope tennis fans tune in and watch it because it's going to be one time and probably never again in this type of competition," Federer said.

By most people's standards, the two stars have an unusual meeting place.

"I don't know her that well. I only know her from some champions' dinners at Wimbledon," Federer said. "We have busy lives and a big entourage, so it's rare to really deep dive. We can relate to each other more so now, being parents."

Federer will head into the clash in form after a masterclass 57-minute thrashing of Norrie. The 20-time



Roger Federer of Switzerland during his mixed doubles match with Belinda Bencic, against Cameron Norrie and Katie Boulter of Britain at the Hopman Cup in Perth, Australia, Sunday Dec. 30, 2018.

Associated Press

Grand Slam champion moved around the court well and hit the ball crisply to overwhelm Norrie.

"I was very happy that I was able to come out tonight

and put in a good performance," Federer said. "I was happy with all aspects of my game . footwork, offensive play, serve, return. It was all there." □

## NHL union: Stars CEO out of line blasting Seguin, Benn



DALLAS (AP) — The NHL players' union says comments from Dallas Stars CEO Jim Lites were "reckless and insulting" after Lites went on expletive-laden rants criticizing high-priced forwards Jamie Benn and Tyler Seguin.

Lites also words such as "terrible" and "embarrassing" while saying Benn, the captain, and Seguin

were playing poorly for a team underachieving in the Western Conference. The Stars held the final playoff spot in the West when Lites sought out reporters in order to rip the players. Lites said owner Tom Gaglardi also was frustrated with the play of Seguin and Benn and concerned that a team with high expectations was in danger of missing the playoffs for the ninth time in 11 seasons.

The union said in a statement Sunday, "To say that Jim Lites' conduct is unprofessional would be a gross understatement," while adding, "this is not how professionals handle adversity." □

## Oilers trade for defensemen Petrovic, Manning, Norell



Buffalo Sabres defenseman Rasmus Dahlin (26) carries the puck past Florida Panthers defenseman Alexander Petrovic (6) during the first period of an NHL hockey game, Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2018, in Buffalo N.Y.

Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP) — The Edmonton Oilers acquired three defensemen Sunday, getting Alexander

Petrovic from the Florida Panthers and adding Brandon Manning and Robin Norell hours later from the

Chicago Blackhawks. Florida received defenseman Chris Wideman and a conditional 2019 third-round pick, and Chicago got forward Drake Caggia and defenseman Jason Garrison. Petrovic had one assist in 26 games for Florida this season. The 26-year-old Edmonton native had five goals and 44 assists in 254 games in seven seasons with the Panthers.

Manning had a goal and two assists in 27 games for Chicago this season. The 28-year-old has 12 goals and 34 assists in 234 games in seven NHL seasons, the first six with Philadelphia.

The 23-year-old Norell has three assists in 27 games this season for Djurgardens in the Swedish Hockey League. □



# Texans clinch AFC South title with 20-3 win over Jaguars

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

**HOUSTON (AP)** — After the Houston Texans fell to 0-3 with a loss at home to the New York Giants on Sept. 23, they appeared to be headed for a second straight losing season. Instead, the Texans (11-5) won their next nine games and 11 of their last 13, capped by Sunday's 20-3 win over the Jacksonville Jaguars, to clinch the AFC South title.

"We have a lot bigger goals," J.J. Watt said. "I have a lot bigger goals but it's good. Especially after starting 0-3 and everybody writes you off. Guys in the locker room believed. Guys in the locker room never gave up."

Deshawn Watson threw for 234 yards and ran for a touchdown and DeAndre Hopkins had 147 yards receiving in the victory.

The Texans will make their fifth playoff appearance after winning the division for the fifth time in franchise history. Houston returns to the postseason for the third time in four years after bouncing back a 4-12 campaign in which Watson and Watt suffered season-ending injuries.

"The way we started out, it's a testament to the players in that locker room," coach Bill O'Brien said. "They've always hung tough. And to go from 0-3 (and then) go 11-2 in this league is pretty tough to do. Give credit to the players."



Houston Texans defensive end Christian Covington (95) hits Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback Blake Bortles (5) causing a fumble during the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Dec. 30, 2018, in Houston. Jacksonville recovered the ball.

Associated Press

Houston built a 14-point lead in the first half behind rushing touchdowns by Watson and Lamar Miller and made it 20-3 on a 24-yard field goal with about 11 minutes left. The Jaguars had a chance to cut the lead later in the fourth quarter, but Blake Bortles was intercepted in the end zone by Andre Hal.

Jaguars owner Shad Khan said in a statement that his director of football operations, Tom Coughlin, has decided to retain coach Doug Marrone and general manager Dave Caldwell — even though the team finished in last place a year after playing in the AFC

title game. Khan said he agreed with the decision.

"We get judged on wins and losses," Marrone said. "Obviously, this year, I didn't do a good job. Period. I'm never going to step away from that. I'm happy with the faith because I do believe I will get this right."

The Jaguars (5-11) returned to Bortles as starter after benching the quarterback following a loss to Buffalo on Nov. 25. But he did little to get Jacksonville's offense going, with the Jaguars managing one first down in the opening half and finishing with six. Bortles was 15 of 28 for 107 yards.

Watt sacked Bortles 1½

times to finish with 16 this year. Watt has four seasons with 15 or more sacks, second most in NFL history to Reggie White (five).

The performance by Hopkins gives him 1,572 yards receiving and 115 receptions this season, both career highs. His catch total tied Andre Johnson (2008) for the most in franchise history.

"A lot of guys have amazing seasons, but their team isn't where it should be," Hopkins said. "So I think everything I've been doing has correlated to my team winning, which is even better."

**KEY PLAYS**

Dede Westbrook muffed a punt late in the first quarter, and Zach Cunningham recovered. Watson capitalized with a 5-yard scramble that made it 10-3 early in the second quarter.

The Texans faced a third-and-6 late in the second quarter when Myles Jack deflected a pass and Hopkins grabbed it for a 13-yard gain. Miller ran 7 yards for a touchdown on the next play, dragging two defenders into the end zone to make it 17-3.

**BAD BEHAVIOR**

Coughlin had strong words for running backs Leonard Fournette and T.J. Yeldon after the game.

Fournette, who was inactive because of foot and ankle injuries, and Yeldon were caught by TV cameras as sitting on the bench and chatting while the offense had the ball. They were clearly disengaged with teammates and coaches.

"I am disappointed in the behavior today from T.J. Yeldon and Leonard Fournette," Coughlin said. "They were disrespectful, selfish and their behavior was unbecoming that of a professional football player."

**TEXANS NUMBERS**

Hopkins is the fourth player in NFL history (Jerry Rice, Marvin Harrison and Brandon Marshall) to have at least 100 receptions, 1,500 yards receiving and 11 touchdowns in multiple seasons. He had 111 receptions for 1,521 yards and 11 touchdowns in 2015. □



In this Sunday, Nov. 18, 2018 file photo, Tampa Bay Buccaneers head coach Dirk Koetter talks to reporters after an NFL football game against the New York Giants in East Rutherford, N.J.

Associated Press

## Buccaneers fire coach Dirk Koetter after 3 seasons

By FRED GOODALL

AP Sports Writer

**TAMPA, Fla. (AP)** — Dirk Koetter has been fired as coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The team made the announcement Sunday night, a little more than three hours after the Bucs concluded a disappointing season with a 34-32 loss to the Atlanta Falcons.

Koetter was promoted

from offensive coordinator to his first NFL head coaching position when Tampa Bay fired Lovie Smith in January 2016. He led the Bucs to a 9-7 record that year, but followed up with consecutive 5-11 finishes. The Bucs started 2-0 this year, and then lost 11 of 14 down the stretch, including four straight games to finish the season.

Koetter, who had a 19-29

record, was dismissed after meeting with team ownership after Sunday's game.

"We sincerely appreciate the hard work and commitment shown by Dirk over the past several years," Bucs co-chairman Joel Glazer said in a statement.

Glazer said general manager Jason Licht would begin the search for a new coach immediately. □



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## Amanda Nunes KO's Cyborg in 51 seconds, Jones wins at UFC 232

By GREG BEACHAM

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP) — Amanda Nunes pulled off one of the most surprising wins in mixed martial arts history when she left the world's most feared female fighter face-down on the canvas.

Jon Jones merely did exactly what everyone expects him to do whenever he manages to get out of his own way.

Nunes knocked out Cris "Cyborg" Justino 51 seconds into the first round at UFC 232 on Saturday night, ending the featherweight champion's 13-year unbeaten run in spectacular fashion.

Jones also reclaimed his light heavyweight title in his return from a 17-month cage absence. The two-time champ stopped Alexander Gustafsson with strikes on the ground in the third round.

Nunes (17-4), the UFC's bantamweight champion, made history after she fearlessly moved up 10 pounds to challenge Justino (20-2), widely considered the most accomplished female fighter in MMA.

The undersized underdog dominated her fellow Brazilian from the start, buckling Justino's knees and knocking her down twice before landing the overhand right that ended it.

"Nothing was going to stop me from what I wanted to do tonight," Nunes said. "When she connected with a couple of punches, I just said, 'I'm going to walk right through her.'"

Nunes is the third fighter in UFC history to hold two title

belts simultaneously, joining Conor McGregor and Daniel Cormier.

"I knew this was happening, I told you all!" Nunes said. "I'm the new 'champ-champ.' I said that before, and now I'm just achieving this dream."

Just six days after the UFC moved the entire 232 card from Las Vegas to the famous Forum south of downtown Los Angeles, Jones (23-1, 1 no-contest) closed the show with a methodical dismantling of Gustafsson (18-5). The bout was a rematch of Jones' toughest fight, a thrilling decision in 2013 over Gustafsson.

But in Jones' first bout since completing his second drug-related suspension, the star picked apart Gustafsson with kicks in the first two rounds. He got a take-down in the third and finished the fight with several brutal shots to Gustafsson's head on the ground.

"It was always about being the champion again," Jones said. It was never about the opponent, nothing personal. I'm just happy with my belt, and for now I want to go back to the gym and improve my game."

The UFC made the extraordinary decision to move its show 280 miles to California during a holiday week just to keep Jones on the card. The former champion recently tested positive for low levels of a banned steroid, but California regulatory officials didn't consider the result serious enough to keep the long-troubled star out of the octagon, while Nevada's commission did.

The 31-year-old Jones had



Amanda Nunes, left, lands a punch to Cris Cyborg during the first round of a featherweight title mixed martial arts bout at UFC 232, Saturday, Dec. 29, 2018, in Inglewood, Calif.

Associated Press

fought only twice in the previous 47 months, losing an enormous chunk of his fighting prime due to his misbehavior. He held the UFC's 205-pound title twice before, but had it stripped both times.

Jones returned from his first doping suspension with a stoppage of Cormier in July 2017 to reclaim his light heavyweight title, but lost the belt again after testing positive for steroids.

A capacity crowd of 15,862 in Southern California watched another groundbreaking achievement by Nunes, the ferocious brawler who calls herself "The Lioness." Nunes also knocked out Ronda Rousey in less than a minute two years ago, and she has victories over bantamweight champion Miesha Tate and future 125-pound champion Valentina Shevchenko.

Nunes' punching power is often too much for her male sparring partners, and she carved up Justino with astonishing ease despite a size disadvantage. Justino had won 20 consecutive fights since her MMA debut in 2005, and she had dominated since the inception of the UFC's 145-pound division, which was created largely as a showcase for Cyborg's talent.

"I know I hit hard, but sometimes you never know," Nunes said. "When I hit her, I could see she got rung a little bit. I'm thinking, 'I'm going to be fast, I'm going to move my head, and I know I'm going to get a knock-out.'"

Earlier, Australian featherweight prospect Alexander Volkanovski (19-1) won his 16th straight bout in the PPV opener, stopping veteran Chad Mendes with

right hands in the second round of a back-and-forth bout. Michael Chiesa also won his welterweight debut with a second-round submission of former champ Carlos Condit, who lost his fifth straight fight.

Former UFC lightweight champion BJ Penn tapped out for the first time in his MMA career, losing to Brazilian jiu-jitsu whiz Ryan Hall on a heel hook in the first round. Penn (16-13-2), an MMA pioneer who turned 40 this month, is 0-6-1 in his last seven fights since 2010. Despite the late move to LA, the UFC sold out the Forum after just six days of ticket sales. The crowd included Justino friend Halle Berry, Dolph Lundgren, David Spade, NL MVP Christian Yelich of the Milwaukee Brewers, Travis Barker, Mick Foley and Amber Villetta. □



# Did 2018 usher in a creeping tech dystopia?

By MATT O'BRIEN

AP Technology Writer

We may remember 2018 as the year when technology's dystopian potential became clear, from Facebook's role enabling the harvesting of our personal data for election interference to a seemingly unending series of revelations about the dark side of Silicon Valley's connect-everything ethos.

The list is long: High-tech tools for immigration crackdowns. Fears of smartphone addiction. YouTube algorithms that steer youths into extremism. An experiment in gene-edited babies.

Doorbells and concert venues that can pinpoint individual faces and alert police. Repurposing genealogy websites to hunt for crime suspects based on a relative's DNA. Automated systems that keep tabs of workers' movements and habits. Electric cars in Shanghai transmitting their every movement to the government.

It's been enough to exhaust even the most imaginative sci-fi visionaries.

"It doesn't so much feel like we're living in the future now, as that we're living in a retro-future," novelist William Gibson wrote this month on Twitter. "A dark, goofy '90s retro-future."

More awaits us in 2019, as surveillance and data-collection efforts ramp up and artificial intelligence systems start sounding more human, reading facial expressions and generating fake video images so realistic that it will be harder to detect malicious distortions of the truth.

But there are also countermeasures afoot in Congress and state government — and even among tech-firm employees who are more active about ensuring their work is put to positive ends. "Something that was heartening this year was that accompanying this parade of scandals was a growing public awareness that there's an accountability crisis in tech," said Meredith Whittaker, a co-founder



In this Aug. 8, 2018, file photo, a mobile phone displays a user's travels using Google Maps in New York. Google attracted concern about its continuous surveillance of users after The Associated Press reported that it was tracking people's movements whether they like it or not.

Associated Press

of New York University's AI Now Institute for studying the social implications of artificial intelligence.

The group has compiled a long list of what made 2018 so ominous, though many are examples of the public simply becoming newly aware of problems that have built up for years. Among the most troubling cases was the revelation in March that political data-mining firm Cambridge Analytica swept up personal information of millions of Facebook users for the purpose of manipulating national elections.

"It really helped wake up people to the fact that these systems are actually touching the core of our lives and shaping our social institutions," Whittaker said. That was on top of other Facebook disasters, including its role in fomenting violence in Myanmar, major data breaches and ongoing concerns about its hosting of fake accounts for Russian propaganda.

It wasn't just Facebook. Google attracted concern about its continuous surveillance of users after The Associated Press reported that it was tracking people's movements whether they like it or not.

It also faced internal dissent

over its collaboration with the U.S. military to create drones with "computer vision" to help find battlefield targets and a secret proposal to launch a censored search engine in China. And it unveiled a remarkably human-like voice assistant that sounds so real that people on the other end of the phone didn't know they were talking to a computer.

Those and other concerns bubbled up in December as lawmakers grilled Google CEO Sundar Pichai at a congressional hearing — a sequel to similar public reckonings this year with Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and other tech executives.

"It was necessary to convene this hearing because of the widening gap of distrust between technology companies and the American people," Republican House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy said.

Internet pioneer Vint Cerf said he and other engineers never imagined their vision of a worldwide network of connected computers would morph 45 years later into a surveillance system that collects personal information or a propaganda machine that could sway elections.

"We were just trying to get it to work," recalled Cerf, who is now Google's chief internet evangelist. "But now that it's in the hands of the general public, there are people who ... want it to work in a way that obviously does harm, or benefits themselves, or disrupts the political system. So we are going to have to deal with that."

Contrary to futuristic fears of "super-intelligent" robots taking control, the real dangers of our tech era have crept in more prosaically — often in the form of tech innovations we welcomed for making life more convenient.

Part of experts' concern about the leap into connecting every home device to the internet and letting computers do our work is that the technology is still buggy and influenced by human errors and prejudices. Uber and Tesla were investigated for fatal self-driving car crashes in March, IBM came under scrutiny for working with New York City police to build a facial recognition system that can detect ethnicity, and Amazon took heat for supplying its own flawed facial recognition service to law enforcement agencies.

In some cases, opposition

to the tech industry's rush to apply its newest innovations to questionable commercial uses has come from its own employees. Google workers helped scuttle the company's Pentagon drone contract, and workers at Amazon, Microsoft and Salesforce sought to cancel their companies' contracts to supply tech services to immigration authorities.

"It became obvious to a lot of people that the rhetoric of doing good and benefiting society and 'Don't be evil' was not what these companies were actually living up to," said Whittaker, who is also a research scientist at Google who founded its Open Research group.

At the same time, even some titans of technology have been sounding alarms. Prominent engineers and designers have increasingly spoken out about shielding children from the habit-forming tech products they helped create.

And then there's Microsoft President Brad Smith, who in December called for regulating facial recognition technology so that the "year 2024 doesn't look like a page" from George Orwell's "1984."

In a blog post and a Washington speech, Smith painted a bleak vision of all-seeing government surveillance systems forcing dissidents to hide in darkened rooms "to tap in code with hand signals on each other's arms."

To avoid such an Orwellian scenario, Smith advocates regulating technology so that anyone about to subject themselves to surveillance is properly notified. But privacy advocates argue that's not enough.

Such debates are already happening in states like Illinois, where a strict facial recognition law has faced tech industry challenges, and California, which in 2018 passed the nation's most far-reaching law to give consumers more control over their personal data. It takes effect in 2020.



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## Year 1 a mixed bag for businesses in California's pot market

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD  
LOS ANGELES (AP) — It was supposed to be a great year for marijuana entrepreneur Brian Blatz. When California broadly legalized pot on Jan. 1, the lawyer with a background in banking and health care had been working for a year to set up a trucking company that would whisk fragrant marijuana buds, infused juices and other products from fields and production plants to store shelves.

On its website, Long Beach-based Verdant Distribution said the company's goal was to be the United States' pre-eminent business for transporting cannabis.

But it's all gone. The trucks were sold to cover debt, a warehouse vacated, its license expired.

The choppy rollout of California's legal market saddled the company with costly delays, but it was undone by an abrupt state rule change that allowed just about any marijuana business to become its own distributor, undercutting the need for stand-alone companies like Verdant.

In California's emerging market, "the challenges are tremendous," said Blatz, who is now advising clients in the fledgling industry. "Suddenly, the whole game changes on you."

In a nation increasingly embracing legal cannabis, California stands out as the country's biggest pot shop. Top-shelf marijuana, concentrates, balms and munchies are being produced and sold. Some companies are doing well, especially those with deep pockets that can handle the market's twists and turns.

But many are not. And some, like Blatz's company, already are casualties.



In this Monday, Jan. 1, 2018 file photo, a customer purchases marijuana at the Harborside marijuana dispensary in Oakland, Calif., on the first day that recreational marijuana was sold legally in California.

Associated Press

At year's end, California's effort to transform its long-standing illegal and medicinal marijuana markets into a unified, multibillion-dollar industry remains a work in progress. It's a mix of success stories, struggles and crashes.

The illegal market continues to flourish — by some estimates, up to 80 percent of the sales in the state still are under the table, snatching profits from legal storefronts.

With many communities banning marijuana sales, limiting the number of licenses or simply not creating rules for the legal market to operate, the supply chain is fragile, leaving some shops with sparsely stocked shelves. A battle over home deliveries of pot in communities that have banned marijuana businesses could end up in court.

A promised state tax windfall has yet to arrive, while businesses complain about hefty tax rates that can ap-

proach 50 percent in some communities. The number of testing labs remains tight. Meanwhile, shifting rules and start-up costs are taking a toll.

In Los Angeles, where the pace of licensing has lagged, Adam Spiker, who heads an industry group, summed up the condition of most companies with one word, "Pain."

He says tax rates need to be cut to entice buyers into the legal market, and the city needs to rapidly expand the number of licenses for shops to sell cannabis.

"The encouraging sign, the state is open for business," said Spiker, executive director of the Southern California Coalition. But "if you have limited access to retail, that's going to force a lot of companies to fail."

A year into broad legal sales, "no one has it figured out in California," he said. "It's so new, so big, so turbulent."

In general, California treats

cannabis like alcohol, allowing people 21 and older to legally possess up to an ounce and grow six marijuana plants at home.

What's emerged is a patchwork. Marijuana farms proliferate in Santa Barbara County and legal pot shops are never far away in San Francisco. But other places ban all commercial marijuana activity, or allow cultivation but not sales.

The state's top pot regulator, Lori Ajax, said her goal in 2019 will be to get more licensed businesses in the marketplace, while increasing enforcement against illegal operators.

One of the fortunate ones has been Arizona-based Harvest Health & Recreation, which has operations in a dozen states and over 400 employees, including in California, and recently started trading on the Canadian stock exchange. By the end of next year, the company expects to have at least 20 retail shops in California, a manufactur-

ing plant and a statewide distribution system.

Company president Steve Gutterman praised the state's efforts to open the legal market — the consumer is getting quality, safe products. But he said he'd welcome a more aggressive push against illegal operators, and pot companies need access to banking — most financial institutions won't do business with cannabis companies because it remains illegal at the federal level.

"There has been good and bad," he said, but "California is a great place for us." That's not the case for many retail businesses in Los Angeles.

Drive through California's largest city and there are plenty of shops and billboards advertising pot sales, and some businesses provide Apple store-like settings to pick from buds with names like Blue Dream and Chocolate Gelato.

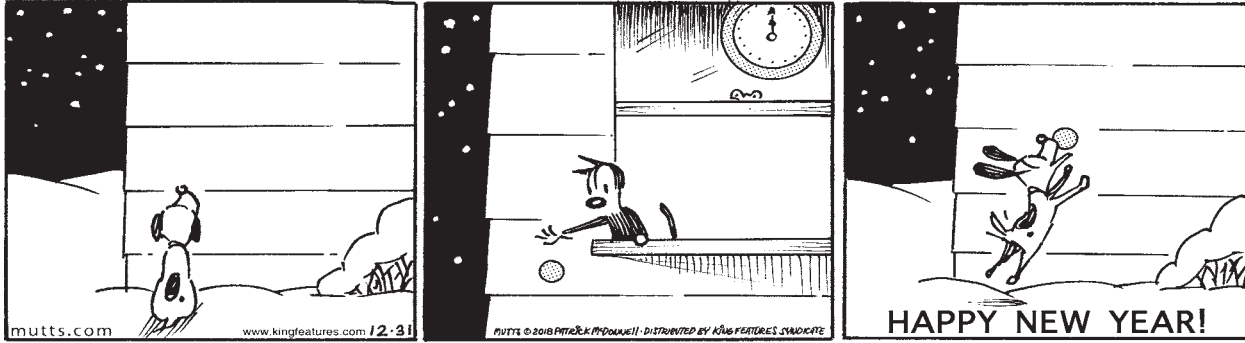
But the number of shops is part of the problem — hundreds are illegal. Here, and elsewhere, the illicit market that thrived for decades continues to do robust business, often in plain sight.

Police do periodic crackdowns on individual businesses, but it barely makes a dent in the illicit marketplace.

In a letter to Los Angeles officials in November, the United Cannabis Business Association said legal shops are struggling to keep their doors open while illegal storefronts flourish, selling products for as much as 50 percent below legal rivals. Those illegal shops "do not pay taxes, do not pay the cost of ... city and state regulations, and do not follow required worker protections," wrote the group, which represents legal retailers. □



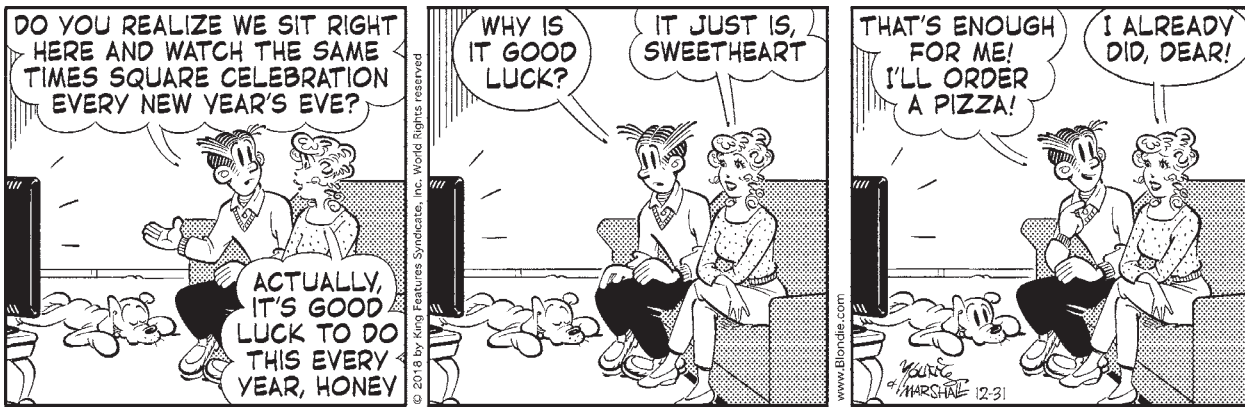
## Mutts



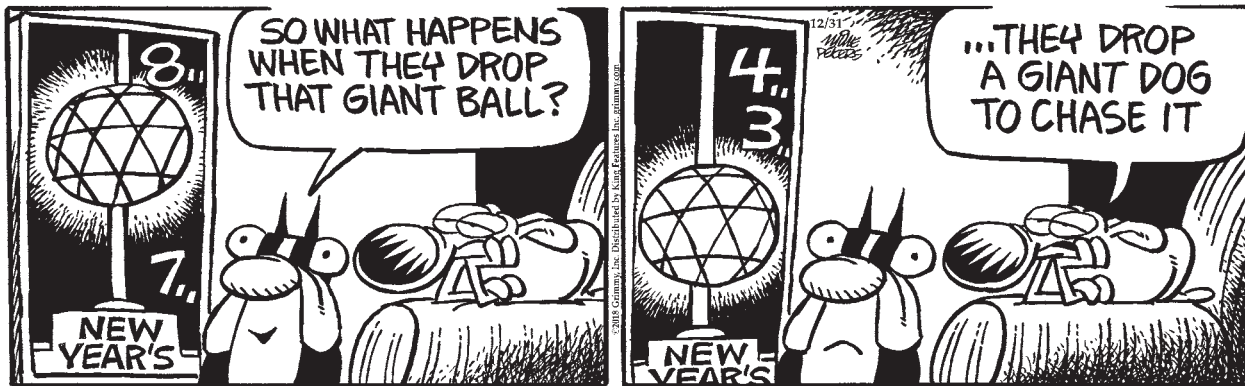
## 6 Chix



## Blondie



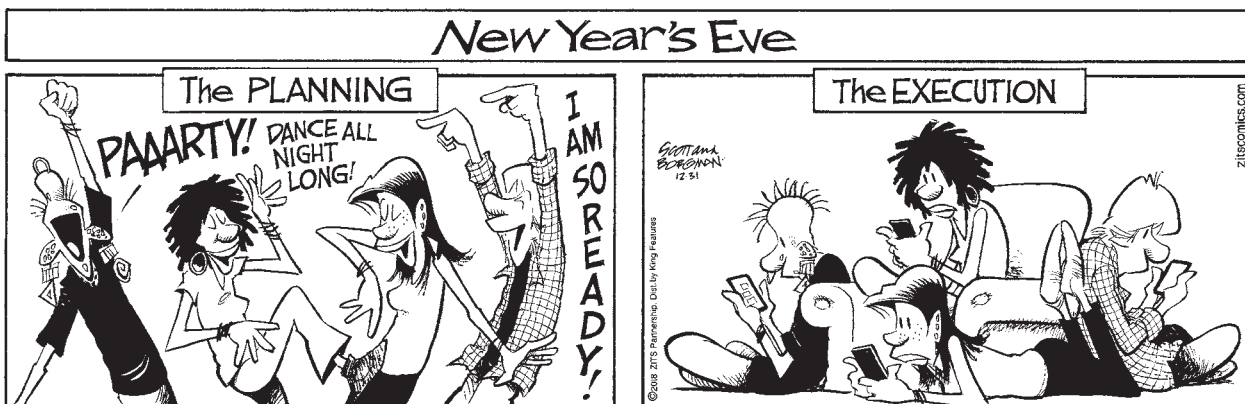
## Mother Goose & Grimm



## Baby Blues



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

3		7	4	2		1	
		2	5		8	3	
	4						8
		8		3		9	
4	9	3		5		8	7
		6		8		4	
	7						5
		5	3		6	1	
6		9	1	5		2	

Difficulty Level ★

12/31

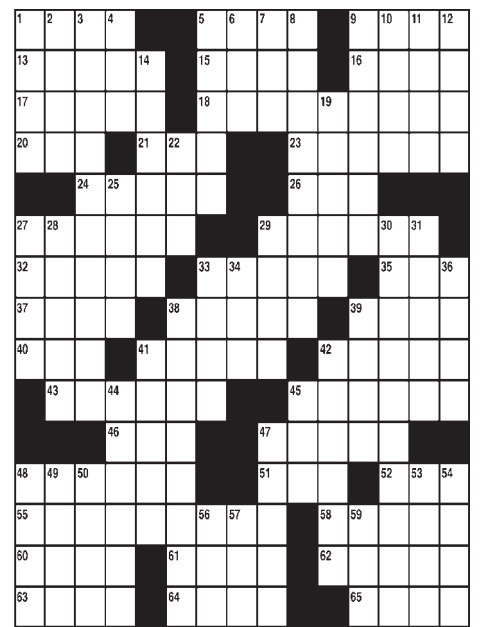
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

9	3	6	2	4	5	1	7	8
2	7	5	1	8	3	6	9	4
1	4	8	9	6	7	3	5	2
3	9	4	5	2	6	7	8	1
5	8	7	4	9	1	2	3	6
6	2	1	3	7	8	9	4	5
4	5	2	6	3	9	8	1	7
8	1	3	7	5	2	4	6	9
7	6	9	8	1	4	5	2	3

## ACROSS

- Informal talk
- Evans or Robertson
- Shapeless mass
- Lassos
- Overlook; miss
- Overnight dance party
- Unassisted
- On the \_\_; taking no part in the action
- Become firm
- Misery
- Equestrians
- Unlocks
- Carp
- Dan Quayle's successor
- Opposite of roundabout
- City in England
- Sulks
- "For \_\_ a jolly good fellow..."
- Boone & Benatar
- Yes-man
- Great \_\_; very tall dog
- \_\_ mask; knit facial covering
- Keep a cooking turkey moist
- Handbag
- Few and far between
- Crown
- Tiger or tabby
- Common greeting
- Flat round seed used in soup
- Martian's vehicle
- Eggy drink
- Mishaps
- Latin American dance
- Prison knife
- Look for
- Frighten
- Rubber tube
- Stick around
- Facial features



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/31/18

## Saturday's Puzzle Solved

SHIV	CAPON	ARCH
TYNE	AGAIN	TALE
APEX	NEGLECTFUL	
REV	BONE	HATED
INEPT	DEC	
NOTARY	JACKET	
ADAPT	CRANK	VOW
RIBS	THUDS	HERR
YUL	POISE	WORSE
MEDIAN	CANYON	
RED	SIN	NEW
MAGIC	MEND	HOG
ABOVE	BOARD	MENU
CUBE	ALIVE	GREY
STIR	ADDER	MESS

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12/31/18

## DOWN

- Rugged cliff
- Pit
- Remorseful
- Three and seven
- Prescribed amounts
- "What Kind of Fool \_\_?"
- Tupperware top
- Endless period
- Card game
- "Penny \_\_", Beatles song
- No longer happening
- Mrs. Truman
- Tailors
- People not to be trusted
- Afternoon hour
- Pea casings
- Mont Blanc's range
- Faucet problems
- City fellow on a ranch
- Dry white wine
- Nervous
- Prepare to take a selfie
- Cereal grain
- Doesn't \_\_ like; appears not to be

- Resound
- TV crime drama series
- Meanie
- Departs
- Trawler's need
- Soothing drink
- Part of a royal flush
- Gauche
- Twofold
- Pigtail
- Aviators
- Astir
- ABC followers
- Sled dog
- Word with eye or whip



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# At botanical garden in Mexico, natural species blossom again

By KIM CURTIS

**SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE, Mexico (AP)** — Imagine a botanical garden, and acres of carefully designed, highly manicured, delicately pruned "zoos for plants" may come to mind.

But at El Charco del Ingenio, a botanical garden and natural protected area in central Mexico, the sprawling scrubland has been allowed to return to its unencumbered, wilder roots. The approximately 160-acre property, acquired from several different families, had been overgrazed for hundreds of years, according to Mario Arturo Hernández Peña, the park's director.

"Thirty years ago, people said the only thing that grows here is stones," Hernández said. But by limiting access, protecting the soil from runoff, pruning trees and controlling unwanted species, the land has blossomed, he said.

In 1991, when El Charco first opened, volunteers and staff had identified about 183 different species of plants and about 130 species of birds. Those numbers exploded to about 600 and 186 in 2007 and 2014, respectively. "We're just helping nature," he said.

El Charco is easily accessible from touristy downtown San Miguel de Allende. It's a few minutes by car or a longer, uphill jaunt by foot. The park hosts about 50,000 visitors each year. About 70 percent are Mexicans and, of those, about 35 percent are students, which is exactly how Hernández and the board of directors like it.



This November 2018 photo shows Director Mario Arturo Hernández Peña showing endangered cacti grown in El Charco's greenhouse at El Charco del Ingenio in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.

Associated Press

It's an educational environment, not a park where you can have a picnic," explained Naomi Zeriffi, the only non-Mexican on the seven-member board of directors.

Even so, the high tourist season of November through February is the park's busiest time of year, Hernández said. "We're working with the University of Guanajuato on a study of the capacity of intake. We're discussing how much is too much," he said. "We can pack this place with people . but then its natural structure, which we guard as a treasure, would be highly affected."

Even so, the high tourist season of November through February is the park's busiest time of year, Hernández said.

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In addition to its biodiversity, El Charco is culturally and historically significant. Its name combines two Spanish words, "el charco" or "puddle," and "ingenio" or "mill." They refer to the ancient flow of water in the canyon, which originated in a natural spring, long since dried up, and the remains of an ancient mill or waterwheel, likely used to grind grain, which shows up on a map of San Miguel from 1580.

Today's visitors also can see the remains of an 18th century bridge, the ruins of a 19th century hacienda and a still-intact dam built in 1902. There are workshops and classes, guided tours in Spanish and English, bird-watching excursions, sweat lodge and full moon ceremonies, as well as an annual spring equinox concert and summer festival in July.

El Charco, a nonprofit organization, receives no government funding, and the bulk of its annual budget is drawn from memberships and fees, Hernandez said. About 20 percent comes from private donations. In addition to Hernandez and the board of directors, the park is run by a team of 24 full-time staff, including an environmental engineer and two biologists, and 10 volunteer tour guides. Andrew Goodell, a volunteer and engineering geologist, said groups of students, ranging from pre-kindergarten to post-doctoral, have toured the park. "I want to give them an appreciation for nature and their heritage," he said. "I want to show them what the land has looked like in the past, what the names of things are and what they've been used for."

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Hernández's intentions are even broader. "We can have a much larger impact if we focus not just on environmental education, but on cultural change," he said. "We can just have tourists running through here and taking off, but if people leave here thinking about their actions and their impacts, that's real."

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This combination of undated photos provided by Brett Ratcliffe in December 2018 shows, from left, Gymnetis drogoni, Gymnetis rhaegali and Gymnetis viseroni beetles from South America.

Associated Press

## Professor names beetle species after 'Game of Thrones'

**LINCOLN, Neb. (AP)** — A Nebraska entomologist has named three of his eight newest beetle discoveries after the dragons from the HBO series "Game of Thrones" and George R.R. Martin book series "A Song of Ice and Fire."

University of Nebraska-Lincoln professor Brett Ratcliffe named the new scarab beetle species drogoni, rhaegali and viseroni, The Omaha World-Herald reported . The names are Latinized versions of Drogon, Rhaegal and Viserion, three dragons owned by Daenerys Targaryen's character in the fictional work.

Radcliffe said he's a fan of the series, but ultimately chose the names to draw attention to biodiversity and the amount of undiscovered species. "When you create names like these, you do it to gain a little bit of notoriety and bring public attention to it," Ratcliffe said. "We're still discovering life on Earth. One of every four living things on Earth is a beetle. We haven't discovered them all. We're not even close."

Ratcliffe said he's named hundreds of species over his 50-year career and creating new names becomes difficult. Naming rules recommend against using humor or insults, and are particularly useful to avoid having duplicate names, he said. Ratcliffe said he went with the pop culture reference to have a little bit of fun. "I've often thought that scientists take themselves too seriously," Ratcliffe said, "and this is a way to circumvent that."

Drogoni and viseroni can be found in Colombia and Ecuador, while rhaegali is in the French Guiana. All three have orange features.

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# Acclaimed author Amos Oz dies at 79

By JOSEF FEDERMAN  
Associated Press

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — Israeli author Amos Oz, one of the country's most widely acclaimed writers and a pre-eminent voice in its embattled peace movement, died on Friday after a battle with cancer, his family announced. He was 79.

His daughter, Fania Oz-Salzberger, announced her father's death on Twitter.

"My beloved father, Amos Oz, a wonderful family man, an author, a man of peace and moderation, died today peacefully after a short battle with cancer. He was surrounded by his lovers and knew it to the end. May his good legacy continue to amend the world," she wrote.

Oz was known around the world for his dozens of novels, essays and prose about life in Israel, including a well-received memoir, "A Tale of Love and Darkness." He won some of the literary world's most prestigious honors, including the Goethe Prize and the French Knight's Cross of the Legion D'Honneur, received honorary doctorates and was a perennial candidate for the Nobel Prize in literature.

Oz was born in Jerusalem in 1939, the son of immigrants from eastern Europe. As a teen he rebelled against his upbringing, looking to put behind what he felt was his parents' world that glamorized Europe and the West and instead was drawn to the young pioneers who built the early state.

"I secretly dreamed that one day they would take me away with them. And make me into a fighting nation too. That my life too would become a new song, a life as pure and straightforward and simple as a glass of water on a hot day," he wrote in his 2002 memoir.

He would complete high school at Kibbutz Hulda in central Israel, and return to the kibbutz after completing his mandatory military

service in 1961. While working in the farming community's cotton fields, he published his first short stories.

After earning a degree in literature from Jerusalem's Hebrew University, he would spend 25 years on the kibbutz, dividing his time between writing, farming and teaching at the community's high school, according to his website.

As a reserve soldier in a tank unit, Oz fought in the 1967 and 1973 Mideast wars.

In a career spanning half a century, Oz published over 35 books, including 13 novels as well as children's books and collections of short stories, and hundreds of articles on literary and political topics. His works were translated into more than 40 languages.

His works included "In the Land of Israel," a work that chronicled his travels and interviews with people throughout Israel and the West Bank in the 1980s about the country's past and future; "My Michael," a novel about a troubled marriage in 1950s Jerusalem, and "A Tale of Love and Darkness." That 2002 memoir, recounting his childhood in Jerusalem and the suicide of his mother when he was 12 years old, won him the Goethe Prize and other recognitions, and was adapted into a film starring Natalie Portman.

Oz was a leading voice in Israel's peace movement and a friend of the late Shimon Peres, a former prime minister and legendary politician who won the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to reach a deal with the Palestinians. Oz frequently wrote essays and delivered lectures urging the country's leaders to establish a Palestinian state as part of a peace agreement with Israel.

In a 1998 interview, he lamented the deep divisions in Israeli society — a prescient observation that remains true to today.

"We have not yet established the rules of the game



In this Nov. 4, 2015 file photo, Israeli writer Amos Oz poses for a photo at his house in Tel Aviv, Israel. Associated Press

in 50 years," he said. "You could hardly get two Israelis to agree on the kind of Israel they want."

In a 2001 interview with The Associated Press, Oz said Israel must wean itself from the view that the West

Bank and Gaza were assets to be traded for peace and instead should just be given away. □

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<p><b>Wednesday at 8:00pm</b></p> <p><b>Noche Latina</b></p>	<p><b>Sunday at 8:00pm</b></p> <p><b>Aruba Has Talent</b></p>
<p><b>Thursday at 8:00pm</b></p> <p><b>Circus Night</b></p>	<p><b>Every night at 7:30pm 8:30pm 9:30pm</b></p> <p><b>Liquid Firework Show</b></p>

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# 'Aquaman' still rules, and others see a post-Christmas bump

By LINDSEY BAHR

Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — In the final weekend of 2018, "Aquaman" still led the pack at the box office, but other films like "Mary Poppins Returns," "The Mule" and "Second Act" enjoyed post-holiday bumps too, even amid an onslaught of new Christmas offerings like "Vice," "Holmes and Watson," "On the Basis of Sex" and the Netflix phenomenon "Bird Box."

Warner Bros. said Sunday that "Aquaman" added an estimated \$51.6 million in North American ticket sales over the weekend to take first place again. Down just 24 percent from its domestic debut, the DC Comics pic, which has been No. 1 internationally for four weeks, has now grossed nearly \$748.8 million worldwide.

Although other films in theaters were left in "Aquaman's" wake, more than a few in the top 10 experienced an uncommon uptick in returns this weekend. Disney's "Mary Poppins Returns" ended the weekend



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Jason Momoa, left, and Amber Heard in a scene from "Aquaman."

Associated Press

up an estimated 19 percent, in second place, with \$28 million, while "Bumblebee," down only five percent, settled in third with \$20.5 million.

Up 11 percent, "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" got fourth with \$18.3 million, and "The Mule," up 24 percent, took fifth with \$11.8 million.

The Jennifer Lopez-led "Second Act," which got

off to a slow start last weekend, also found itself up 11 percent, with \$7.2 million in seventh place. But the biggest bump of all came for Disney's "Ralph Breaks the Internet," which was up nearly 40 percent in its sixth weekend in theaters, with \$6.5 million.

"There is a bit of a lull on the weekend leading into Christmas. People are busy and distracted," said Com-

score's senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "But the weekend after, most of these films in the top 10 got a bounce."

This so-called "catch-up" weekend made it a little difficult for the Christmas newcomers to make a huge impact, however, especially when the big wide-releases this time were either politically charged (the Dick Cheney movie "Vice") or

poorly reviewed ("Holmes and Watson," which is in the single digits on Rotten Tomatoes and got a deathly D+ CinemaScore).

Annapurna's "Vice," starring Christian Bale as the former Vice President, came out on top for the new films, grossing \$7.8 million from the weekend and \$17.7 million since its Christmas opening. A leading contender at the Golden Globe Awards this coming Sunday, the film earned mixed reviews from critics and a C+ CinemaScore from audiences.

"That a movie with that subject matter can ride a wave to sixth place is really indicative of how interested people are in this movie," Dergarabedian said. "This is required viewing for anyone studying the awards season race."

Driven by the star-power of Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly, "Holmes and Watson" managed to take in \$7.3 million despite the negative audience and critic reviews. The Sony film has grossed \$19.7 million since Christmas Day. □

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<p><b>BUMBLEBEE</b> HAILEE STEINFELD   DYLAN O'BRIEN WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON-THU &amp; SUN: 12:50   3:15   5:45   8:15 FRI-SAT: 12:50   3:15   5:45   8:15   10:45</p>	<p><b>AQUAMAN</b> JASON MOMOA   AMBER HEARD WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON-THU &amp; SUN: 2:00   4:55   7:50 FRI-SAT: 2:00   4:55   7:50   10:45</p>
<p><b>SECOND ACT</b> JENNIFER LOPEZ   MILO VENTIMIGLIA MON-THU &amp; SUN: 4:50   7:10   9:30 FRI-SAT: 4:50   7:10   9:30   11:50</p>	<p><b>QUE LEÓN</b> OZUNA   CLARISA MOLINA SPANISH MON-SUN: 6:30</p>
<p><b>SPIDER-MAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE</b> WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES 1 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATION MON-SUN: 1:30   4:00</p>	<p><b>RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET</b> WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES 1 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATION MON-SUN: 1:55</p>
<p><b>THE GRINCH</b> WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES SAT-SUN: 1:00   3:55</p>	

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## Longtime British comedy star June Whitfield dies at 93



Nov. 16, 2017 file photo of Dame June Whitfield after she was made a dame.

Associated Press

By GREGORY KATZ  
Associated Press  
**LONDON (AP)** — British actress and comedic star June Whitfield, whose long career included memorable roles in TV series "Absolutely Fabulous" and "Terry and June," has died. She was 93.

Her agent said that she died Friday night.

Whitfield enjoyed a career spanning decades, appearing on some of Britain's most popular TV shows and earning generations of fans drawn by her wide range and impeccable timing.

She was prominent in the "Carry On" series and the sitcom "Terry and June" with Terry Scott in the '80s before playing a vital role in "Absolutely Fabulous."

Her time on "Ab Fab" playing the slightly odd mother of Jennifer Saunders' boozy character Edina introduced Whitfield to fans who hadn't been born when she started on radio decades earlier.

Fellow "Ab Fab" stars Saunders and Joanna Lumley praised Whitfield for the warmth and wit she

brought to the hugely popular show.

"I will always be grateful that she agreed to be in Ab Fab and even more grateful that she became a dear friend," Saunders said in a statement. "She lived and worked with an extraordinary grace."

Lumley said she was "heartbroken to lose such a darling friend."

Whitfield's father was a telephone company executive and her mother an amateur actress. She once told The Telegraph newspaper she knew very early in life she wanted to be a performer.

"There was never one moment when I decided," she said. "I went to dancing classes and elocution classes and the appeal was simply that I loved it all." □



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**Presley's 'Comeback Special' still relevant, 50 years later**

By **ADRIAN SAINZ**

**MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)** — Elvis Presley wanted an honest answer. Steve Binder gave him one.

Presley was meeting Binder for the first time in Binder's office in Los Angeles in 1968. A music and television producer, Binder had been asked to put together an NBC television special featuring Presley, who had become more of a movie actor than a rock 'n' roll singer in the 1960s when the Beatles and the Rolling Stones were dominating the rock world.

Presley and Binder talked for about an hour about music and established a rapport, Binder recalls. Then Presley popped the question: "What do you think of my career?"

"I was young and brash in those days," Binder told The Associated Press in a phone interview. "I said, 'I think it's in the toilet.'"

According to Binder, Pres-



ley said: "Well finally, somebody's talking straight to me." That meeting became a meaningful step in the creation of the one-hour TV show "Singer Presents...Elvis," better known today as the '68 Comeback Special. Aired on Dec. 3, 1968, the program was a rapturous return for the 33-year-old Presley, whose music had mostly stuck to soundtrack songs from his often pulpy, saccharine films. It was sponsored by Singer, the sewing machine company. Relaxed at some points, energetic during others — and always inspired — a still-handsome Presley sounds strong and soulful. He appears genuine: He sweats, his black hair gets messed up. The finale features an emotional Presley singing "If I Can Dream," a moving piece written for the show that served as a response to the tumult of 1968, when the Vietnam War served as the backdrop for the assassinations of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy. Presley returned to prominence. He began performing for sold-out crowds in Las Vegas and produced "From Elvis in Memphis," an album that included "Suspicious Minds" and "In the Ghetto." Presley's career would slow down. He divorced his wife, Priscilla, and began abusing prescription drugs. He died of a heart attack on Aug. 16, 1977, in Memphis. Still, his popularity has remained high. Graceland, the tourist attraction built around his former Memphis home, draws 500,000 visitors a year. HBO recently released a documentary, "Elvis Presley: The Searcher." And his image and voice are regularly used in films, TV shows and commercials. Much has been said about the importance of the '68 Comeback Special to Presley's career. □

Associated Press

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